

Annex 2: Reporting table on national Europe 2020 targets and other key commitments

National Target	List of measures and their state of play that were implemented in response to the commitment	The estimated impacts of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)
National 2020 headline targets		
National 2020 employment target (62.9%)	<p>Measure 3.1.2.1: Community Work Scheme</p> <p>The Community work scheme aims at providing the long-term unemployed the opportunity to undertake community work enabling them to obtain further skills and improve their employability. The scheme was introduced in 2009 and extended in 2010. It will be extended further during 2012 and subsequent years to eventually include short term unemployed</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p>	<p>Since the launch of this scheme 441 unemployed persons participated in the scheme.</p>
	<p>Measure 3.1.2.2: Revision of Means Testing for Social Assistance</p> <p>Part of the income from work for people who are receiving social assistance will not be considered in the financial means test for the family to qualify for social assistance. This measure was implemented by means of a legal amendment introduced by Act IV of 2011</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>Up to end of July 2011 over 68 women whose husband was in receipt of a social assistance have benefitted from this budgetary measure.</p>
	<p>Measure 3.1.2.3: Pro-Rata NI Contribution for Part-Time Self-Employed Women</p> <p>Self employed women working on a part time basis, as in the case of employed persons are</p>	<p>The minimum N.I contribution was a deterrent and considered too high for Part-Time Self-</p>

	<p>now being given the opportunity to choose to pay a 15% pro rata contribution on their income instead of the minimum currently stipulated by law. This pro rata contribution also grants pro rata rights for some social benefits.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>Employed women who did not reach a certain level of income. Through this measure women were given a further incentive to stay in employment even if their income from self employment was relatively low</p>
	<p>Measure 3.1.2.4: Child Care Centres</p> <p>Out of the five centres planned to be opened by 2015, two have already been opened and became operational by end of 2011. The 3rd centre opened in January 2012. Plans for the construction of another two childcare centres are under way.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The 3 new centres are currently accommodating 147 children.</p>
	<p>Measure 3.1.2.5: Afternoon School Programmes in the Community</p> <p>This after-school service started in 2009. By 2011, service was being offered from within 5 schools (Birkirkara, Fgura, Mosta, Zurrieq, St. Paul's Bay)</p> <p>In January 2012, the 6th centre was opened in Marsascala while work on the new San Gwann Centre is at an advanced stage</p> <p>Various localities were identified for new Centres to be opened between 2012 and 2013.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The total number of children who benefitted from the after-school service since October 2009 was 2157. (156 in 2009, 966 in 2010 and 1035 in 2011)</p>

	<p>Measure 3.1.3.1: Incentives to Attract More Inactive Women to the Labour Force</p> <p>Measures adopted to attract more women in the labour market include The INT scheme aimed to assist individuals interested in starting their own business. A number of participants have already benefited from this initiative which included guidance, training in businesses related issues and also Mentoring.</p> <p>Further more During 2011 ETC organized 16 different training programmes aimed to assist individuals who have a small business and who are interested in enhancing their business management skills.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>To date (Feb 2012), 8,600 women returned to the labour market while saving around 10 million Euros in income tax payments. Female participation during the last ten years has increased from 32.2% to 40.5%</p> <p>INT scheme - 17 women (out of 41 total participants) had participated under the scheme.</p> <p>Training programmes - The total number of female participants till January 2012 was 104 females (out of total of 223 participants).</p>
	<p>Measure 3.1.3.2: Publicity campaign to attract more women to the labour market</p> <p>Being implemented through "NISTA" TV Publicity campaign: (ESF project). Phase I targeting towards the Society in General was completed by September 2011. Phase 2 was targeted towards women and included TV and Radio spots aired during end 2011 and January 2012. Phase 3 of the campaign started during April 2012 and will focus on Promoting Men in the Family sphere this phase is planned to be completed in June 2012</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Women are encouraged to consider their re-entry into the labour market through this scheme.</p> <p>According to the Labour Force Surveys issued by the National Statistics Office, since January 2009 there has been an increase in employment rate of 2.2%.</p>

	<p>Measure 3.1.3.3: Encouraging Older Workers to Continue Working</p> <p>New legislation was introduced in 2008 through which persons of pensionable age under the age of 65 are now able to work without losing their pension entitlements, irrespective of the amount of earnings and irrespective of their age.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p> <p>Government has introduced a new medical assessment as part of the criteria for qualification to the invalidity pension to ensure that the system will not lead to early exit from the labour market. Malta is currently looking at how this process can be improved in other areas where benefit entitlement is linked to unemployment through work incapacity</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>The reform of the pension system will also contribute to encourage older people to remain active and contribute towards the country's economic and social development. Currently the official retirement age is 61 years. In 2014, the official retirement age will be 62 years and in 2019 it will be 63 years.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>In 2011, out of a total 43,084 males and 15,533 females who were receiving a retirement pension, 8,649 (20.0%) and 2,116 (13.6%) respectively remained in employment for the whole or part of the year respectively. When comparing 2011 data with 2010, there is a net increase of 718 male (+9%) and 159 female (+8.1%) pensioners who remained in employment while in receipt of their pension.</p> <p>In the years 2008-2011, the number of beneficiaries was reduced by 3,161 persons and thus making them available for gainful employment. This resulted in an annual recurrent saving to government of approximately €10,330,961</p> <p>The effective retirement age of cohort 1 is expected to increase to a range between 59.2 and 60.3 years, depending on year of birth (1952-1955). Whilst the effective retirement age of cohort 2 is expected to increase to a range between 61.4 and 62.35 years, depending on year of birth (1956-1958). The effective retirement age in 2008 stood at 57.5 years. <i>(Proviso: The quoted expected outcome is provisional and based on the male population.)</i></p>
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	<p>Measure 3.1.3.4: Strengthening Employability Prospects</p> <p>The Employment and Training corporation operates the following programmes aimed at Strengthening Employability Prospects:</p> <p><i>Employment Aid Programme:</i> The aim of the Programme is to contribute towards the integration of disadvantaged persons and persons with disability in the labour market. This programme is being successfully implemented and the targets originally set for this scheme have been surpassed.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p><i>Youth Employment Programme:</i> The aim of the Youth Employment Programme (funded by the ESF) is to increase the employability and labour market integration of young people. The programme involved various aspects, including guidance, training, and knowledge of relevant labour and social security legislation</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p><i>Apprenticeships</i> As part of its ongoing measures, the ETC manages two apprenticeships namely the Extended Skills Training Scheme and the Technician Apprenticeship scheme. Currently the drafting of a new Apprenticeship Legal Notice is being discussed internally. This L.N. should give</p>	<p><i>Employment Aid Programme:</i> The total number of applications received until end January 2012 was 4,305; The NRP target of placing 1,530 persons has been surpassed since a total of 2,337 participants were placed on the scheme.</p> <p><i>Youth Employment Programme:</i> By December 2011, outreach with 5,348 youths had taken place, exceeding the NRP target of 4,860 youths.</p> <p><i>Apprenticeships:</i> Up till the end of 2011, 659 candidates were registered with ETC as active apprentices. From those candidates who did not pursue further studies after completing their apprenticeship on 30 September 2011, 68% were found to be in full-time employment and 21% in part time</p>
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	<p>ETC more Flexibility in implementing new apprenticeships</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Employability Programme: The overall objective of the programme is the reintegration of job seekers and the inactive into the labour market and assistance to those in employment to secure and advance their position within the labour market. The initiative was launched in May 2009, and is planned to run till December 2012. The training subsidy scheme (TSS) and other trainee ships are also included under this programme. The take up of the TSS has increased over previous years as a result of the intense marketing campaign</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p><i>Training Aid Frame Work:</i> The Training Aid Framework (TAF) supports undertakings to provide training to their workforce by offering the opportunity of part-refund of training costs. The TAF was launched in February 2009 and till end January 2012, the TAF unit received and accepted for processing 3,398 applications . The original NRP targets to support 475 enterprises and around 3,500 trainees have been reached and exceeded.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>employment.</p> <p><i>Employability Programme:</i> Till the end of 2011, circa 2,915 courses were started with more than 29,000 persons successfully completing their program.</p> <p>297 completed their training under the TSS and a total number of 241 participants benefited from other traineeships</p> <p><i>Training Aid Framework:</i> 2,578 grant agreements were signed out of these 788 grants were processed and 544 have received payment.</p>
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	<p><i>Training, Information and Diffusion of Knowledge - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.</i> This Measure seeks to improve the competitiveness and the sustainability of the agricultural sector by investing in human potential. A tender (second call) was launched on the 22nd of November 2010 and closed on the 14th of January 2011. As at end July 2011 three out of the four eligible applications were contracted, with the training started in the third quarter of 2011.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The number of participants who have attended the courses under this measure in 2011 amounted to 2523</p>
	<p>Measure 3.1.3.5: Measures to Curtail Abuse of the Unemployment Register and Informal Work</p> <p>The Maltese Public Employment Service ETC intensified its efforts to curtail abuse through targeted inspections. In parallel the Benefit Fraud Directorate with the Ministry of Education, Employment and the Family, also carried out investigations when social security benefit fraud was suspected or reported. Legislation was drafted and is currently awaiting publication. This legislation is aimed to increase the penalty period for persons who fail to participate in activation measures</p> <p>By December 2011 a tender for a new registration system was drafted and submitted for vetting.</p>	<p>Between January and December 2011, a total of 3,827 targeted inspections were carried out by ETC during which 2,349 law infringements were identified.</p> <p>During 2011, the Benefit Fraud and Investigation Department conducted through its Inspectorate 2,126 on-site inspections. From the on-site inspections and from all other investigations conducted by the Department, 1,331 cases were concluded and which resulted in the suspension of a total of social benefits to 1,025 persons. The estimated annual savings for 2011 totaled to €3,661,150.</p>

	<p>The design of an inter-departmental campaign on benefits of declared work has been completed and will soon be launched.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Further more during 2011, 1,486 registered unemployed persons were struck off the unemployment register for failing to participate in obligatory training programmes.</p>
<p>National 2020 R&D target (0.67% of GDP)</p>	<p>Measure 3.2.2.1: The New National Research and Innovation Strategy 2011-2020</p> <p>A draft plan was issued for public consultation in early December 2011. This consultation closed at the end of January 2012. The feedback received is currently being reviewed in order to update and finalise the strategic plan. The original finalization date had been Q4 2011, however it is envisaged that the document will be finalised between Q2 and Q3 2012.</p> <p>Status: Delayed</p>	<p>From a qualitative perspective, it is expected that the new R&I strategic plan will positively impact on increasing coherence between different policies and strategies within government and provide a common vision for stakeholders involved in R&I. It will set the strategic framework and priorities for investment over the coming years and will thus be guiding investment (human, infrastructural, etc.) in this area. In particular, the different investments are expected to stimulate further the level of R&D investment and thus contribute toward the achievement of the national R&D target.</p>
	<p>Measure 3.2.2.2: An Ecosystem Approach to R&I Funding</p> <p>A National R&I Programme was launched on 26th November 2011 with a budget of €1.1 million. A total of 40 proposals were submitted, out of which 26 projects were shortlisted. A total of 8 projects were eventually selected for funding under the R&I Project</p>	<p>The R&I Programme has a direct impact on the national R&I expenditure (GERD) since it funds R&D performed by both the higher education and the business enterprise sector. Assuming that the funding of projects is spread equally over the three year period of the funded projects, then the €1.1million</p>

	<p>Status: on Track</p> <p>The Commercialisation Programme is particularly intended for the successful recipients of funds under the R&I Programme to help them move their technology closer to market. Preparatory work for the programme was undertaken in 2011, and it is expected to be launched during the first months of 2012. The intended amounts per project would be €25,000 to €50,000. The commercialisation programme will support technology owners to gain visibility and possibly attract capital investment.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p><i>B Incentives for R&D in Industry</i></p> <p>Malta Enterprise administers a number of R&D incentives that support enterprises in projects related to Industrial Research and Experimental Development. These incentives provide support in the form of cash grants or fiscal benefits. Fiscal benefits can be provided to all R&D projects, while cash grants are awarded to specific initiatives (such as collaborative R&D projects) or through competitive calls. Apart from two initiatives which are specifically intended for SMEs, R&D incentives are available to all enterprises. . The schemes are namely:</p>	<p>budget allocated for the R&I Programme 2011 would generate an expenditure of €366,667 per year between 2011 and 2013.</p> <p>While the commercialisation programme will not contribute directly to Malta's R&D expenditure target, it will seek to capitalise on R&D investments made through the R&I Programme and help technologists bring their technology closer to the market. This programme will be piloted in 2012, and thus, at present it is very difficult to quantify its impacts. However, it is not excluded that this programme may eventually have a multiplier effect and lead towards further R&D since the revenue generated from successfully commercialised products may be partly invested in new R&D.</p> <p>These schemes are expected to contribute to a percentage increase in RTDi expenditure as a percentage of GDP (target increase from 0.3% in 2004 to 0.75% in 2013)</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan on Highly Qualified Personnel • Preparatory Technical Feasibility Studies scheme • Grants for Cross Border Collaborative R&D • Industrial Research and Experimental Development • Registration for Intellectual Property Tax Credits for SME's • Royalty Income from Patents R&D Clusters <p>Status: On Track</p>	
	<p>Measure 3.2.2.3: Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Scheme</p> <p>The Malta Government Scholarship Scheme (MGSS) was launched in 2006. The Directorate for Lifelong Learning and the Malta Council for Science and Technology continue to collaborate so that more students take up opportunities in Research and Innovation. In fact, the MGSS scheme supports students who opt to conduct part of their assignments in world renowned Research Institutes.</p> <p>In 2009, the Strategic Educational Pathways Scholarships (STEPS) was launched. This is an ESF co-financed project which will terminate in 2014.</p>	<p>High quality postgraduate education is of central importance to a number of objectives among others: the increase of research and development activity in Malta. By October 2011, 117 scholarships leading to Doctoral degrees were awarded under the MGSS and 87 scholarships were awarded under STEPS</p>

	<p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Measure 3.2.2.4: The Setting Up of a Life Sciences Centre</p> <p>The Life Sciences Centre shall be named as the BioMalta Campus and will seek to attract foreign direct investment into research, technological development and innovation in the bio-technology and life sciences sectors as well as support the development of the local industrial community helping them to grow and internationalise.</p> <p>The permits for enabling works have been issued by MEPA. The FDA for enabling works has been issued. As per third quarter 2011, €522,504 has been paid regarding Project Design and Management. Further works are envisaged in 2012 with the building expected to be complete in 2014</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The Campus is expected to build upon Malta's long-standing tradition in the pharmaceutical industry in Malta which has high growth potential and in 2010 employed over 1000 workers and produced over € 208 million worth of exports</p>
<p><i>Malta's Targets for Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A maximum increase of greenhouse gas emissions not falling within the scope of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme of 5% by 2020 (compared to 2005 levels particularly emissions from 	<p>Measure 3.3.2.1: Interconnection to the European Energy Grid</p> <p>The project is currently on track and the target is to commission the interconnector by October 2013 as per contract. The project is in its detailed engineering stage prior to start of manufacture of equipment. The application process for permits in Malta in Sicily is</p>	<p>The capacity of the interconnector (200MW) will gradually reduce the output from inefficient generating capacity at Marsa Power Station which is due to operate for not more than 20,000 hours until the end of 2015 at the latest. The capacity of the inefficient plant at</p>

<p>transport, mainly road transport, waste, agriculture and fuel combustion in industry and commercial and residential buildings).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A commitment to achieve by 2020 a share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption of 10%. - A commitment to achieve by 2020 a target of 10% of energy consumed in all forms of transport from renewable sources. 	<p>progressing. A detailed marine survey to define the subsea cable route was completed before the end of 2011.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Marsa Power Station would be replaced partly by the new 144MW plant at DPS from 2012 and partly from the submarine interconnection from 2013.</p> <p>Once the project is completed Malta will be able to import and export 200MW+ of electrical power from Sicily and Europe when it is advantageous. Malta will also be able to source electricity from lower cost suppliers and/or sources that cause less emissions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A commitment to achieve a 22% energy or 235,254toe savings target by 2020 with an intermediate target for 2014 of 15% or 144,876toe. 	<p>Measure 3.3.2.2: Extension of the Delimara Power Station</p> <p>The availability of a maximum of 144MW of Electrical Power to the Maltese Electricity Grid by May 2012 was delayed essentially due to delays in granting of the IPPC permit. Nonetheless following the issue of the IPPC permit in December, the project is currently on track to deliver the expected 144MW electrical output power to be available to the Maltese electrical grid in summer 2012.</p> <p>Status: Delayed</p>	<p>The new generating plant is modular and has 46% conversion efficiency, making it the most efficient and flexible generating plant in Malta. The increase in conversion efficiency will imply lower costs of electricity generation, lower emissions and will contribute to increasing Malta's primary energy use efficiency.</p>
	<p>Measure 3.3.2.3: Energy End-Use Efficiency</p> <p>Malta submitted its second NEEAP¹ in line with Directive 2006/32/EC. The measures proposed in the first NEEAP were, or are in the process of being, implemented in the</p>	<p>The energy efficiency target of 3% for 2010 has been achieved, and marginally exceeded – the target was 126GWh and the achievement was 153GWh.</p>

¹ National Energy Efficiency Action Plan

	<p>majority of cases.</p> <p>.</p> <p>The main tangible efforts during the past three years have been on promoting energy efficiency in the domestic sector, tourism and industry. A number of schemes have been issued targeting these sectors and the uptake was very successful.</p> <p>The carbon footprint of all building categories still has to be established by means of expert studies This will allow Malta to re-define real energy savings targets more precisely. Furthermore the refurbishment and transformation of existing buildings will be encouraged.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>It is envisaged that by the end of 2018 all new buildings being constructed for the use of public authorities will qualify as nearly-zero energy buildings.</p>
	<p>Measure 3.3.2.4: Energy Efficiency in Transport</p> <p>The number of buses has been reduced from 300-360 in circulation at a given time with the old busses, to around 260 busses in circulation at a given time with the new service</p> <p>Apart from the new fleet including 10 hybrid diesel-electric buses, all others must be EURO V by July 2012. This is a significant improvement when compared with the previous fleet where only 131 were EURO III and all others had more polluting engines.</p>	<p>The new fleet will contribute to a reduction in emissions through less polluting engines but also through higher capacity vehicles which reduce the number of trips required.</p>

	<p>Status: On track</p> <p>Measure 3.3.2.5: Implementation of Malta's National Strategy for Policy and Abatement Measures relating to the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p> <p>The organisational framework set out in the Strategy has been established with the Climate Change and Policy Unit (CCPU) of the Malta Resources Authority under the Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs. In order to secure strategic co-ordination to implement climate action an Inter-ministerial Committee was set up in 2011 which is led by the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Progress on the abatement measures themselves has also been made with the extension of the Delimara Power Station as planned The installation of new efficient generation capacity and interconnection with the European grid will ensure an increasingly efficient supply in terms of emissions.</p> <p>The continuous review of technology and reduction in losses by the Water Services Corporation has decreased the carbon footprint of each m³ of water delivered. Projects related to Waste and Agriculture will contribute further to a reduction of emissions from this sector. The implementation of energy recovery from these projects will help to reduce emissions, whilst also contribute to the RES contribution.</p>	<p>The various initiatives under this measure will result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emission. Saving in Ghg CO2-eq estimate for 2020 is as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delimara Power Station + Interconnector (1288.18) • Promotion of the use of Biodiesel (23.57) • Transport Reform (5.83) • Modernisation of agriculture holdings + Nitrates Action Programme (20.80) • Gas Management at Non-hazardous Landfills (66.10)
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	<p>The Strategy also earmarked the public transport reform as a key contributor to reduce emissions. The overhaul in the bus fleet has been implemented and now focus will be on an effective modal shift.</p> <p>Bio-fuels have been used locally for a number of years, though recently a boost has been given to the use of bio-fuels through substitution obligation thus fulfilling the requirements of the Strategy.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	
	<p>Measure 3.3.2.6: Implementation of the National Renewable Energy Action Plan</p> <p>The Government had identified the sites for wind-farm development with potentially minimal impact on other activities and the environment and has already started the Environment Impact Assessments or Appropriate Assessments on these sites.</p> <p>A set of permitting guidelines were issued for solar applications installed within the cartilage of a building, permitting guidelines are also available for micro wind turbines with capacities up to 20kW.</p> <p>A fast Track procedure was adopted for small generators of renewable energy sources</p> <p>Measures being taken to facilitate the uptake</p>	<p>Malta will be achieving its 2020 renewable energy targets through a number of identified major projects of large scale wind, and waste to energy projects. However a great share of renewable energy will be generated from a relatively higher number but smaller capacities of renewable energy sources distributed across all the Maltese Islands mainly integrated in existing building infrastructures due to Malta's limited space and the conflicting use by other activities.</p> <p>Government grants were key and lead to the installation of 2,067 PV systems and 6,819 solar water heaters that benefited from the rebates.</p>

	<p>of renewable energy resources include financial incentives through grant schemes launched by Government from time to time</p> <p>In the last NREAP report, Malta reported the share of PV as 0.08% of the total electricity produced in 2010.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	
<p>National early school leaving target (Reducing school drop-out rates to 29% by 2020)</p> <p>National target for tertiary education (Increasing the share of 30-34 years old having completed tertiary or equivalent education to 33% by 2020)</p>	<p>Measure 3.4.2.1: Tackling Absenteeism by Strengthening Student Services</p> <p>a) Strengthening the Education Psycho-Social student Services at the grass-roots level within schools.</p> <p>Since the commencement of this initiative various tasks were undertaken to address these issues, including the recruitment of various professionals and also a team of social workers were recruited during 2010. During scholastic year 2010-2011 these social workers followed up cases of students, both in primary and in secondary education, who were absent for more than 30 unauthorised days.</p> <p>Various other initiatives aimed to make students aware of opportunities for the</p>	<p>These programmes are aiming to offer support, skills acquisition and formation to youths thus preventing future absenteeism.</p> <p>The major impact is expected to be on primary education since these are given priority by the social workers however, the measure is also expected to affect absenteeism in secondary school in the coming years</p> <p>Due to the nature of the problems presented it is very difficult to quantify in numbers the impact of this measure.</p>

	<p>future were also carried out</p> <p>b) Multi-disciplinary teams will monitor families in which there is a high tendency of children's absenteeism.</p> <p>Work is underway to establish a National Referral System, which will enhance the referral process and enables the multi-disciplinary team to work together on the case when required. Further more these multi-disciplinary teams working within the colleges were strengthened with the recruitment of new staff</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	
	<p>Measure 3.4.2.2: Offering more Opportunities for Participation in Vocational Education</p> <p>1. Introduction of vocational subjects in secondary schools During 2010, Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Pearson Education Ltd. expressing the intention to collaborate in relation to the provision of BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) qualifications for the schools sector in Malta.</p> <p>The collaboration agreement covered the supply of qualifications and associated teaching and learning resources</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>2. Extension of vocational subjects at</p>	<p>This agreement will set the basis toward reaching the long term objective namely the development of a VET qualification delivery model suitable for Malta.</p>

	<p>post-secondary level of education in institutions which are dedicated to vocational education and training</p> <p>As from 2009 to date, MCAST launched nineteen new vocational degrees which is partly addressing the need to extend VET programmes to level 6.</p> <p>Furthermore a pre-Employment scheme was launched by the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS) with the aim to increase either the number of students joining ITS or the number of employees in the food service and/or housekeeping operations sections.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>3. The introduction of embedded learning for Foundation (first level) students,</p> <p>The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology MCAST introduced the Embedded learning system for Level 1 students. Embedded Learning is a process where teaching and learning combines the development of literacy, language and numeracy with vocational and other skills.</p> <p>Given the success of the embedded learning system, further analysis will be carried out to determine the needs of Level 1 and Level 2 students</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The new vocational degree programmes resulted in 63 new graduates in 2010. Moreover, there were an additional 60 graduates following the completion of the academic year 2010-2011.</p> <p>So far, the general outcome for the Pre-Employment Scheme was rather positive. In instances, students opt not to continue with their studies at ITS, but decide to find employment within the industry to gain experience. However no tracer study has been carried out so far.</p> <p>The embedded learning system provided students with the possibility to gain the skills necessary to continue their studies. Results obtained were significant with a retention rate of 70% for scholastic year 2010-2012 coupled with excellent results in the key skills (Mathematics, English , Maltese, IT and Personal Development)</p>
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	<p>Measure 3.4.2.3: Introducing Lifelong Learning into the Community through a Pilot Out-Reach Programme</p> <p>In January 2010, the Directorate for Lifelong Learning (DLLL) established a formal collaboration with the Department for Local Government, focusing in particular on the standards and quality of Lifelong Learning courses. In preparation for this project, an assessment of the qualified adult educators was carried out and on-going professional support for adult educators offering services at local councils is also being undertaken by DLLL personnel.</p> <p>In 2011-12, 42 Local Councils participated in this scheme, and delivered classes in Spanish, German, French, Maltese & English literacy, Italian, Numeracy Classes, Maltese as a Foreign Language, and Health, Wellbeing & Successful Ageing.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>1,063 adult learners registered for lifelong learning courses showing a four times increase over 2008. All these courses lead to a MQF Level 1 qualification, and during 2010-2011, 356 adult learners achieved a school leaving certificate level qualification or MQF Level 1</p>
	<p>Measure 3.4.2.4: Setting up of a National System for Accreditation and Licensing of Further and Higher Education Programmes and Providers and of Recognition of Non-Formal and Informal Prior Learning</p> <p>During 2011, the National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE), together with the</p>	<p>The validation of informal and non-formal learning is expected to help a considerable</p>

	<p>Malta Qualifications Council (MQC), collaborated on the drafting of two Legal Notices: the 'Further and Higher Education (Licensing, Accreditation and Quality Assurance) Regulations, 2012', and the 'Validation of Non-formal and Informal Learning Regulations, 2012'. The final drafts have been published and are currently awaiting endorsement by Parliament.</p> <p>In July 2011, NCHE started a Capacity building exercise within the University of Malta (UOM) regarding a review of the internal quality assurance processes in the University of Malta</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>number of people with no formal certificates to have their knowledge, skills and competences recognised. The number of individuals wanting their competences to be validated for the first year could be between 1000 and 1500.</p>
	<p>Measure 3.4.2.5: Introducing New Possibilities and Modalities of Learning in Higher Education</p> <p>The measure reviews existing measures and provides recommendations for allowing learners to study in a more flexible manner and in this way increase participation in higher education. A report including recommendations shall be prepared and presented to the Minister and stakeholders in 2012.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The increased flexibility in studying should encourage more prospective learners to obtain a qualification. However, it is still early to predict any numerical outcomes of this measures</p>

	<p>Measure 3.4.2.6: Extension of the Malta Government Scholarship Scheme (MGSS)</p> <p>The MGSS was launched in 2006 and is ongoing. As from 2012, Government has increased the local funds by almost 92% (from €466,000 to €891,000),</p> <p>Currently the Government is offering other Scholarship Opportunities including STEPS and the Malta Arts Scholarships. In 2012, the fund for Malta Arts Scholarships increased by 25% (from €200,000 to €250,000). Furthermore Government has also introduced the Sport Scholarships in 2012</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Till October 2011: 252 scholarships have been awarded (of which 117 scholarships lead to Doctoral degrees).</p>
<p>National poverty target (To lift around 6,560 people out of risk of poverty and exclusion)</p>	<p>Measure 3.5.2.1: Combating Child Poverty</p> <p>The Employment and Training Corporation (ETC) is taking an active part in this measure through various projects including the Employability Programme (refer to measure 3.1.3.4 d) the Department of Social Security (DSS) is also contributing through the reviewing social security entitlements from time to time.</p> <p>Furthermore a research proposal on lone parents with one or more dependent children is currently being drafted by the Centre for Family Studies at the University of Malta and should be submitted by end of March 2012. The actual research is expected to be</p>	<p>Research will give a better understanding of the challenges faced by these households and enable policy makers to devise the appropriate strategies to deal with such challenges. The resulting future policies will aim to reduce the percentage of lone parents households that are at risk of poverty which in 2010 stood at 56%</p>

	<p>finalised by March 2014 and aims to shed light on the profile of those lone-parent households who are at-risk-of-poverty.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	
	<p>Measure 3.5.2.2: Pensions Reform</p> <p>As a continuation of the pension reform process initiated in 2007, in 2010, the Pensions Working Group (PWG) was tasked with the responsibility to carry out a Report “reviewing Part V of [the Social Security Act] ... with a view of achieving further adequacy, sustainability and social solidarity” as required by Article 64B of the Social Security Act. The PWG submitted its report to the House of Representatives during December 2010. The Report contains a number of proposals aimed at enhancing further the adequacy and the sustainability aspect of the pension system in Malta. Government has not pronounced itself officially on the recommendations expressed in the Report but had launched a public consultation process during May and June 2011 and on which a final report is being drafted. More recent milestones include the presentation of the initial strategic review to Parliament.</p> <p>As regards the retirement age, the Maltese Parliament has already passed enacted legislation as part of the 2007 Pension Reform that stipulated a rise in the pension age to 65 years (by 2026) in 2006.</p>	<p>The projections carried out for the period 2010 to 2060 show that through the parametric changes of 2006 to the First Pension, the average pension replacement rate of the First Pension will fall to 45% by 2060 (would have fallen to 18% had no changes been introduced). Against this backdrop it is argued that the pension system, despite the parametric reforms to the First Pension in 2007, will fall short of securing over time an average pension replacement rate that will bridge to the degree possible the quality of life to be enjoyed by a pensioner as compared to that enjoyed during his or her employment – a cardinal objective that a 45% replacement rate to the average wage will not secure even if one had to consider the fact that a pension is complemented by other health care or social security pensioner directed benefits. Therefore the strategic review aims to supplement the above projected average replacement rate by other proposed measures aimed at safeguarding the sustainability of the pensions system while addressing the equally important adequacy issue. A final report is expected to be presented to Government by end of Q1 2012.</p>

	<p>Measure 3.5.2.3: Supplementary Allowance</p> <p>Work initiated in January 2011 and by end of October 2011 proposals to improve the system in order to assist pensioners aged over 65 years, and who are at risk of poverty were drawn and are awaiting approval.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p><i>22% of the 65+ cohort of the population are considered at risk of poverty, providing for additional financial assistance should contribute in reducing this percentage.</i></p>
	<p>Measure 3.5.2.4: Incentives and Support to Persons with a Disability to Actively Participate in the Labour Market</p> <p>a) To analyse, revise and propose the necessary parametric or fundamental changes required with respect to the benefits enjoyed by disabled persons</p> <p>An Inter Ministerial Working Group was set up, and during 2011, a set of proposals for reform was drafted and presented to the Minister.</p> <p>Two measures were also announced in the Budget for 2012, both effective as from January. These two measures give the possibility to severely disabled persons to maintain their pensions regardless of their spouse's income. They can also maintain their pension if they decide to start working themselves given that they do not earn more</p>	<p>At the end of 2011, there were 2510 persons receiving the Disability Pension. All these can potentially benefit from these measures however the actual impact can only be measured at the end of current year. It is impossible to predict how many of such persons will marry or will start employment (or increase their income from employment over and above the old threshold</p>

	<p>the minimum wage.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>b) Bridging the Gap Scheme for Persons with a Disability</p> <p>The Bridging the Gap Scheme is an ongoing work exposure scheme designed specifically for disadvantaged groups, clients of whom are the Registered Disabled Persons (RDPS) who are registering as unemployed with the ETC</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The target for 2011 was to place 32 RDPS under this scheme. By the end of 2011, 37 RDPs benefitted from the Bridging the Gap Scheme</p>
	<p>Measure 3.5.2.5: Strengthening Support Services to Jobless Households</p> <p>In October 2011, a proposal for re-structuring APPOGG was submitted and approved by Management and has been implemented. Efforts to streamline practices wherever possible are also being carried out. In addition, a number of projects are currently being explored, in particular relating to, young people. During 2011, APPOGG, continued to expand fostering services.</p> <p>Through Commonwealth funding, three training programmes related to Child Protection and Children and the Courts were delivered to various front line workers and managers within and outside the agency.</p> <p>Furthermore projects such as 'Klabb Sajf',</p>	<p>The various projects and initiatives offered by APPOGG will result in better quality of life for those who receive their services. In delivering such services APPOGG managed to reach and surpass one of its main targets, that is; to offer social work services to an average of 100 service users per year.</p>

	<p>'Tlett Kwarti Spazju Ghalik', Pre-adolescent programmes, Parental skills training and women at work were carried out, all aimed at addressing the various identified needs pertaining to specific communities</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	
	<p>Measure 3.5.2.6: Training Programme for Employees Earning the Minimum Wage</p> <p>This scheme was launched in June 2011, and was promoted through local media notably radio adverts and as a news item. Mail shots were sent to prospective applicants, while another media campaign is being prepared for 2012.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Encouraging low wage earners to engage in training and improve their skills can contribute to a better trained workforce and allow such persons to seek better employment. Until December 2011, a total of 20 applications were processed amounting to €1,800.</p>
<i>Euro-plus pact commitments (if relevant)</i>		
Euro Plus Pact commitment on ...	<p>Measure 2.4.11.1: Strengthening the Fiscal Framework</p> <p>The first reading of a Bill to amend the Constitution, in line with Fiscal Compact.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Amending the Constitution in line with the Fiscal Compact would complement other measures introduced by Government in recent years aimed at strengthening Fiscal Institutions in Malta. In qualitative terms, the measure is expected to contribute to the strengthening of the sustainability of public finances in Malta.</p>
	<p>Measure 2.4.11.2: Enactment and Implementation of the Small Business Act</p> <p>The Small Business Act (Malta) was enacted</p>	<p>Through the Small Business Act (Malta)</p>

	<p>in June 2011 by means of Act XI of 2011. The act provides for legislation to be explained in laymen terms, give businesses time to comply with enacted legislation and introduce the SME Test.</p> <p>Its implementation requires also the setup of a central entity which will be initially made up of a Senior Manager and two other staff members. The recruitment process for the setting up of this entity has been finalised.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Government is aiming at enhancing the regulatory environment for SMEs and ensure a responsive administration through the implementation of the SME Test and the application of the Think Small First principle.</p>
	<p>Measure 2.4.11.3: Administrative Burden Reduction</p> <p>Malta has so far carried out all the measurements of the administrative burden costs in the chosen priority areas. This revealed that the current administrative cost burden in these areas is €116m.</p> <p>The MEU is now working with line Ministries, departments and entities to implement identified simplifications.</p> <p>To date 411 officers within the Public Administration have been trained in the Standard Cost Model and Better Regulation processes.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Administrative burdens on businesses will be reduced by 15% by 2012</p> <p>The implementation of simplification initiatives has to date resulted in a Euro 7 million p.a. reduction in the administrative costs and liberating 207,000 man hours for businesses. The savings registered so far account for a 6% reduction in the administrative burden</p>

	<p>Measure 2.4.11.4: Start-up Finance and Micro Credit Scheme</p> <p>Following a Call for Expression of Interest, an agreement was signed with Bank of Valletta in April 2011 and the first transactions were signed thereafter. This Scheme will run for 36 months until May 2014.</p> <p>Status On track</p>	<p>The JEREMIE scheme was well received by SMEs and take up steadily increased over time. By end of February 2012 there were 214 loans that were sanctioned with a total investment amount of €30m and a loan amount of €19.33m.</p>
	<p>Measure 2.4.11.5: Cultural and creative industries Strategy</p> <p>The draft has been completed and is awaiting cabinet approval. The objectives of the strategy have been identified along 4 main strategic paths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen and consolidate the remits of the Malta Council for Culture and the Arts, the Malta Film Commission, the Malta Crafts Council and the National Book Council by responding to the needs of the industry and capitalising on the new global developments of the creative economy. • To consolidate the educational framework and invest in creativity-oriented educational institutions and initiatives • To ensure that creative individuals and enterprises are assisted to find route to market through investment programmes, fiscal measures and minimal bureaucracy, whilst promoting a sustainable 	<p>The true impact of these measures will only materialize once the full strategy is in place and the bigger picture is looked at cohesively. However these measures should give a boost to the level of creativity</p>

	<p>entrepreneurial culture through professionalisation, inter-industry synergies and clustering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To position Malta as an attractive, contemporary and stimulating creative hub within the Mediterranean region, with strong emphasis on exchange and access to international markets. <p>55 measures have been incorporated in the strategy. Of these, 9 have already been implemented and another 11 are currently being finalised.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	
	<p>Measure 2.4.11.6: Full liberalization of the postal sector</p> <p>A review is presently being carried out on the current regulatory framework in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the postal service market in a fully-liberalised and multi-operator environment. Such a framework is intended to promote and preserve fair competition whilst safeguarding the provision of the universal postal service in Malta.</p> <p>It is also being proposed to implement a framework for the regulation of competition</p>	<p>The full liberalization of this sector will enable new market players to enter into any segment of the postal market. Such competition is expected to exert pressure to lower prices while driving improvements in quality of service.</p>

	<p>which will apply to all postal operators providing services within the scope of the universal postal service. This would include the placing of specific regulatory obligations on those postal operators not yet subject to market forces.</p> <p>A consultation will be carried out on the framework, by end-Q2 2012. New regulations will also be proposed in order to effect the changes to the regulatory framework.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	
	<p>Measure 2.4.11.7: Telecommunications Market</p> <p>Amendments to the Electronic Communications (Regulation) Act were introduced, which aim to further drive the competitiveness of the telecommunications market and to strengthen the underlying infrastructure.</p> <p>In this regard, in 2011, the following legislation has been adopted: Act IX of 2011 amending various Acts, including the Electronic Communications (Regulations) Act, Cap. 399 and Malta Communications Act; LN 274 of 2011 - Single European Emergency Call Service (112 number) and the European Harmonised Services of Social Value (116 Numbering Range) Regulation, 2011; LN 273 of 2011 - Electronic Communications Networks and</p>	<p>The changes to legislation adopted are expected to allow for a more competitive market and open up more the use of radio spectrum in an effective and efficient manner.</p>

	<p>Services (General) Regulations, 2011; and LN 239 of 2011 - Processing of Personal Data (Electronic Communications Sector)(Amendment) Regulations, 2011.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	
	<p>Measure 2.4.11.8: Next Generation Networks</p> <p>Following the publication of the Green Paper on Next Generation Access Infrastructure, Government has carried out a series of consultations with stakeholders and commissioned a feasibility study to determine the cost of a fibre to the home network in Malta; the most suitable technologies to deploy; and the best investment model to implement.</p> <p>A call for expressions of interest for the building of a fibre to the home network in Malta has been published. The bidder with the lowest amount of aid required will be the winner, subject to certain criteria being met.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>These studies highlight the significant investment challenges associated with the roll-out of ultra-fast broadband networks. Intervention by the Government will aim to ensure that wholesale access is available on the market in order to foster healthy retail competition while ensuring better consumer protection.</p>
	<p>Measure 2.4.11.9: Telecommunications Regulatory Measures</p> <p>On an ongoing basis, the national regulatory authority adopts measures aimed towards achieving lower inter-operator termination rates. Such measures include consultation by the MCA on the review of wholesale mobile</p>	<p>It is expected that lowering the inter operator termination rates will result in such reductions passing to the end-users.</p>

	<p>termination rates and MCA's 2011 decisions on (i) Transit Services in the Fixed Public Telephone Network; (ii) the review of Wholesale Mobile Termination Rates; and (iii) on Fixed Interconnection Pricing Review</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Together with the consultants, MCA drafted a strategy for the regulation of the wholesale broadband markets in Malta. This strategy is now being discussed with the European Commission and a report on this strategy will be issued for national consultation in Q2 2012.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>MCA has also concluded a re-assignment process of frequencies dedicated to mobile operators. In August 2011 MCA issued three spectrum licences to three mobile operators. MCA also introduced a secondary spectrum trading mechanism through Legal Notice 60 of 2012.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p> <p>A decision published and adopted by MCA ensured that every subscriber in Malta would be entitled to a connection line at a guaranteed access speed of 4 Mbps as part of the Universal Service Regime.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>Once the consultation process on the broadband markets is concluded, MCA will then be able to adopt the new regulatory strategy for the broadband markets.</p> <p>Through this measure MCA will ensure optimal radio frequency management</p> <p>This measure will ensure an internet connection of 4 Mbps is available for everyone.</p>
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Other (if relevant)		
Other key bottlenecks identified in the NRP	<p>Measure 2.4.1: Smart Fiscal Consolidation Malta took effective action to bring down the general Government deficit below the 3 per cent threshold by the end of 2011 to 2.7 per cent of GDP.</p> <p>Government is pursuing the implementation of a number of measures announced in the 2012 Budget aimed at reducing further the fiscal deficit.</p> <p>Government is strengthening and stepping up its efforts towards curbing fiscal and benefit abuse and to increase efficiency in revenue collection.</p> <p>Government acknowledges the important role that national fiscal frameworks may play in sustaining budgetary retrenchment. Government has given the first reading of a Bill to amend the Constitution, with a view to enshrine elements of the Fiscal Compact in the Constitution.</p> <p>Pension reform process is ongoing and remains high on the Government's agenda.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Measures implemented so far have contributed to bring the government deficit below the 3 percent threshold by the end of 2011 to 2.7 percent. The measures announced in the 2012 budget will continue to build on the results obtained so far and will contribute to help government in maintaining sound and sustainable public finances in the long term. Further details may be found in the 2012 Update of the Stability Programme.</p>
	<p>Measure 2.4.2: Pensions Reform</p> <p>Kindly refer to measure 3.5.2.2</p>	

	Status: On Track	
	<p>Measure 2.4.3: Public Infrastructural Projects</p> <p>Between 1999 and 2011 14.4km or 28.2% of the TEN -T road network across the islands of Malta and Gozo have been reconstructed and upgraded. A further 11.7km or 22.9% of TEN-T road network will be similarly upgraded by 2013. The first of these phases will also include access network upgrading for two of Malta's sea ports, while further consideration is being given to the upgrading and refurbishing of international port infrastructures with a view to improve cargo and passenger capacity. Malta also recommended an extension to its present 51km TEN-T road network which was accepted by the Commission. Furthermore significant preparation is being made to establish the feasibility of a road tunnel between Malta and Gozo.</p> <p>Along with infrastructure upgrades, designed to maximise both capacity and safety within the current constraints of the Mgarr harbour and Cirkewwa terminal. Further links have been included in the TEN-T plan to link the capital city of Valletta, its ports and its airport as well as Malta's main TEN-T port located at Marsaxlokk so as to facilitate freight and passenger connectivity.</p>	<p>Development of the TEN-T network and external links are crucial for Malta's tourism and export oriented economy as well as to ensure the mobility of persons. In this respect, the continued development and completion of the TEN-T network, the development of maritime links and ports (freight) and aviation links and ports (tourism/business) continue to be crucial for Malta.</p>

	<p>Status: On track</p>	
	<p>Measure 2.4.4: Private Investment Incentives</p> <p>Tax Credit Schemes</p> <p>Micro enterprises and self-employed are supported through the Micro INVEST tax credit representing a percentage of the eligible expenditure and wages of newly recruited employees and/or apprentices. The scheme was launched in January 2010 and following its success, it has been extended to the end in December 2012. Until December 2011, 722 applicants have benefitted from this scheme, with a total of over € 5.8 million of Tax Credits to be issued, and with 226 jobs created.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Industrial Parks</p> <p>With an investment of €16 million, Malta Industrial Parks has started an extensive programme of upgrading works in a number of industrial zones</p> <p>Business First</p> <p>Malta Enterprise launched the “Business First” (Malta’s one stop shop for business) on the 23rd January 2012. Apart from the schemes and services offered by Malta</p>	<p>300 beneficiaries per year</p> <p>The upgrading of these industrial zones will enhance Malta’s competitiveness as an industrial location thus contributing to the sustaining of Malta’s growing knowledge based economy and promoting and safeguarding jobs in this key strategic sector.</p> <p>The services offered by Business First will affect in particular SMEs and even more so start-up companies by providing authoritative</p>

	<p>Enterprise, more than 50 services from various Government departments and entities are being provided through Business First, with the aim of facilitating the day to day operations of local enterprises. Furthermore, Business First is accepting applications of 19 different entities with 9 forms available online</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Kordin Business Incubation Centre (KBIC)</p> <p>Malta Enterprise is currently working on new policies and procedures for the operations of KBIC on 3 levels: a) the management of the facilities; b) new services offered to tenants, and; c) the relationship with other stakeholders including educational institutes.</p> <p>Status: On track</p> <p>ERDF funded grant schemes</p> <p>All together, a total of 431 projects have been granted funding in the first 3 calls published of the ERDF International Competiveness, Start-Up, Innovation, Environment, e-Business, and the first 2 calls of the ERDF R&D and Energy Grant Schemes.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Online government Services</p>	<p>information and assistance on various business services offered under one roof. As a result businesses will spend less time dealing with such formalities whilst prospective new businesses will not be discouraged from entering the business due to their lack of familiarity with the business environment.</p> <p>Local entrepreneurs were supported to be better equipped to lead their business ventures. Over 50 companies kicked off their operations from KBIC in the recent years.</p> <p>These schemes have contributed to: business growth by assisting start-ups; Enhance innovation by assisting businesses in launching new or improved products; increases ICT usage in businesses and Increase in the adoption of environmentally sensitive technologies by providing aid to SME's</p>
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	<p>In June 2011, the Government launched a solution for online procurement. The e-Procurement solution enables tender bids to be submitted electronically to contracting authorities within Government.</p> <p>In November 2011, the next generation e-Government platform was launched. This is considered to be an evolution of the Government's electronic services.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>VAT registration obligations</p> <p>As announced by Government in its budgetary measures for 2011, L.N. 524 of 2010 was published on 17th December 2010. This legal notice exempts business operators who are not registered under article 10 of the Act and whose turnover does not exceed €7,000 from registering for VAT purposes.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p> <p>Rural Development Programme</p> <p>The Rural Development Programme amongst others includes three programmes aimed at improving the competitiveness and sustainability of the agricultural sector .These are namely:</p>	<p>The online procurement facilitates the submission of tenders and reduces paperwork burdens.</p> <p>The next generation e-Government platform is providing citizens with a truly citizen-centric service which will fundamentally transform customer experience whilst also delivering seamless, cross border and pan-European services.</p> <p>The removal of registration obligations affected 8378 persons who are no longer obliged to submit a yearly declaration. a further 1466 persons will no longer be obliged to submit a yearly declaration once they settle their pending accounts.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training, information and diffusion of knowledge (Measure 111 of the Rural Development Programme) through this measure, service providers will be engaged to provide training to key potential stakeholders, mainly those operating in the agricultural sector or processing. • Modernisation of agricultural holdings (Measure 121 of the Rural Development Programme) This Measure seeks to support farm investment to assist agricultural holdings to improve their economic performance During Calendar Year 2011, €4,531,508 were disbursed out of which €3,398,631 of EAFRD contribution. • Adding value to agricultural products (Measure 123 of the Rural Development Programme) This Measure aims at rendering agro-processing enterprises more competitive. A total of €1,450,304 was disbursed by 31st December 2011 of which EAFRD contribution amounted to €1,108,728. During Calendar Year 2011, €642,967 was disbursed of which EAFRD contribution amounted to €482,225. <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The Impact of this Scheme depends and the total grant to be disbursed shall depend on the number of farmers trained (between €90 and €100 per farmer).</p> <p>Modernisation of agricultural holdings: After the first call in 2008, 344 eligible applications were received and a total of 280 applicants were contracted as at end December 2011. The second call closing in December 2011 attracted a total of 509 applications: 402 in Malta and 107 in Gozo.</p> <p>For the adding value to agricultural products: a total of 25 applicants were contracted after the first call issued on February 2009. 38 applications were received for the second call launched in 2011 and are still under evaluation.</p>
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	<p>Measure 2.4.5: Better Regulation</p> <p>As part of an ESF funded project, Malta has so far carried out all the measurement of the administrative burden costs in the chosen priority areas, resulting in a total administrative burden cost of € 116 million p.a.</p> <p>In addition to the proposals referred to above, further proposed measures aimed at reducing administrative burden on both businesses and citizens from the non-priority areas were identified.</p> <p>Also, as part of an ESF funded project, to date 411 officials have received training in Better Regulation and the Standard Cost Model.</p> <p>Government is also developing a Code of Practice for Regulatory Institutions so as to improve the regulatory framework and ensure more consistency and collaboration between different regulators.</p> <p>It is also anticipated that by the end of the ESF project, all Ministries will have a Ministry Better Regulation Plan</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>A number of simplification initiatives have already been implemented to date resulting in a € 7 million p.a. reduction in administrative burdens.</p> <p>The overall simplification by end-2012 should amount to € 20.6 million p.a. equivalent to 18% of the baseline administrative burden. This should liberate some 716,000 hours p.a. for productive activity.</p> <p>The total administrative burden from IOs in the non-priority areas amount to €8.9m and simplification proposals amounting to €6,252,261 have been identified. Such savings would represent a 70% savings on the baseline administrative burden of the IOs being considered for simplification.</p> <p>Furthermore the development of the Code of Practice for Regulatory Institutions will improve the regulatory framework and ensure more consistency and collaboration between different regulators.</p>
	<p>Measure 2.4.6: Strengthening Market Structures</p> <p>The Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs</p>	<p>The Authority shall have as its purpose the</p>

	<p>Authority (henceforth 'the Authority') was established on the 23 May 2011 with the coming into force of the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority Act 2011, CAP 510 of the laws of Malta (henceforth the 'MCCAA Act'). The MCCAA encompasses the Office for Competition, the Office for Consumer Affairs, the Standards and Metrology Institute and the Technical Regulations Division.</p> <p>The said Act apart from providing for the establishment of the Authority, also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the establishment, jurisdiction and procedure of the Competition and Consumer Appeals Tribunal; and • Amends other laws, notably the Competition Act. The amendments to the Competition Act are aimed to strengthen procedural safeguards, to strengthen the deterrent effect of the law, to accelerate procedures and to enhance legal certainty. <p>Status On track</p>	<p>attainment and maintenance of well-functioning markets for the benefit of consumers and economic operators.</p>
	<p>Measure 2.4.7: Strengthening Financial Stability</p> <p>A forum for financial stability was launched during May 2011, with the first formal meeting of the forum taking place in July 2011.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The establishment of the forum contributed to enhance macro-prudential supervision and ensure it complements micro-prudential supervision so as to improve the identification, measurement and management of risks that</p>

		could have a negative impact on the financial system and the economy of Malta.
	<p>Measure 2.4.8: Improving the Regulatory Environment for Small Businesses</p> <p>Please refer to measure 2.4.11.2 above</p>	
	<p>Measure 2.4.9: Eco Gozo Strategy</p> <p>The Eco Gozo Strategy consists of a number of projects that are being implemented these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transformation of the Gozo experimental farm into a centre for research, development and innovation in agriculture: The name facility will be known as Centre for Innovation in Rural Sciences and Environmental Management (CIRSEM). During 2011, tenders were awarded for the erection of glasshouses and also for the installation of a computerised fertigation and water distribution system. <p>This project has been selected as a Best Practice/Pilot Project for the EU Med Project AGRISLES</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handson farming: This measure included visits to the Xewkija Experimental Farm and other activities organised for school 	<p>The new facility will enable further developments in the agricultural area through research and innovation.</p> <p>These measures will also result in more appreciation of the Maltese local products and better understanding of Maltese species.</p> <p>Cleaning works carried out in 2011 will not only embellish the site but will also result in an increase in water retention capacity of around 24456 cubic metres.</p> <p>The upgrading of tourism infrastructures and promotion of niche markets will attract more tourists to the island of Gozo and therefore contribute to its economy.</p> <p>The implementation of all the proposals made in the Human Resource Strategy will potentially result in the training of over 2,000 persons, support 425 firms and create 1,235</p>

	<p>children</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on Local/Mediterranean Species: Research has been carried out on the Maltese breed of chicken and the characterisation of the local carob tree. <p>Status: On Track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a genetic reserve of fig varieties: Different species of figs were identified and 200 trees were shipped to Gozo to form part of a genetic reserve <p>Status: On Track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cleaning and upgrading of water catchment areas for storage of rainwater: The cleaning of two valleys and four dams was carried out <p>Status: On Track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Promotion of Niche Tourism Markets: Gozo was promoted as a unique diving destination through broadcast in the UK and insertion/booklets dedicated to Gozo in German and French magazines/websites. <p>Status: On Track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Upgrading of Tourism 	<p>jobs.</p>
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	<p>Infrastructures: The proposed project envisages the implementation of the key actions identified in the Cittadella Master plan. In July 2011 the Cost Benefit Analysis regarding proposed 'Implementation of the Cittadella Masterplan Recommendations' was completed and submitted to the MA. The project was approved on 20 February 2012.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Development of a Human Resource Strategy for Gozo: This strategy document presents an analysis of the human resource capabilities; potentials and needs which the Island Region of Gozo can – or potentially can – tap into. <p>Status: Completed</p>	
	<p>Measure 2.4.10: Water Policy</p> <p>The Public Consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report, which was undertaken by MRRA, ended on the 31st January 2011 and a final scoping report prepared by a consultant was presented to MRA and MRRA in April 2011. The Environmental Report was subsequently finalised by the consultants (Adi) in January 2012</p> <p>In line with the requirements of the Strategic</p>	<p>The scoping report and consultation shall contribute to identify the best way to implement a water policy that ensures, amongst other benefits, a supply of good quality water to meet the needs of the population, protection of water resources and their sustainable use.</p>

	<p>Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2010 (LN 497 of 2010) an eight-week public consultation on the Environmental Report was launched by MRRA on 28th February 2012.</p> <p>As regards to sewage treatment, the Water Services Corporation has identified the processes, plant locations and infrastructure necessary to treat waste water beyond the basic tertiary level.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	
Main (new or updated) commitments in the NRP for the next 12 months	Foreseen main measures	The estimated impacts of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)
New/updated Euro Plus Pact commitments		
	<p>3.6.1: Strengthening the Fiscal Framework</p> <p>Government has given the first reading of a Bill to amend the Constitution in line with the Fiscal Compact.</p> <p>The legislative changes will take into consideration the obligations under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Stability and Growth Pact, including the new requirements of Council Directive 2011/85/EU on budgetary frameworks in the EU and the statement by the Euro Area Heads of State or Government on 9 December 2011; ▪ The Fiscal Compact signed on 2 March; ▪ Amendments to the annual budgetary procedure to take into account the 	<p>Amending the Constitution in line with the Fiscal Compact would complement other measures introduced by Government in recent years aimed at strengthening Fiscal Institutions in Malta. In qualitative terms, the measure is expected to contribute to the strengthening of the sustainability of public finances in Malta.</p>

	<p>common provisions for monitoring and assessing draft budgetary plans and ensuring the correction of excessive deficit, in line with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No. .../2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council, which the European Council is calling for to be adopted by June 2012;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The provisions for the strengthening of economic and budgetary surveillance of Member States experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability in the Euro Area, in line with Regulation (EU) No. .../2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council which the European Council is calling for to be adopted by June 2012; ▪ Council Directive 2011/85/EU on budgetary frameworks; 	
	<p>3.6.2: Introduction of Electronic Procurement Procedures and Simplification of Public Procurement</p> <p>The Better Regulation project currently underway which is aimed at simplifying current regulations includes Public Procurement as a priority area, and therefore the Department of Contracts is actively involved in determining what simplification measures can be adopted in this area.</p> <p>Effort is also being undertaken to transit public tendering from conventional to</p>	<p>It is expected that as a result of this measure, calls for tenders will entail simplified and streamlined requirements that facilitate compilation and submission on the part of economic operators, and evaluation and adjudication on the part of public procurers. The perceived impact of this measure will be the opening up of public procurement to a greater number of economic operators, which will also benefit from the simplification of</p>

	<p>electronic procurement (e-procurement).</p> <p>A new e-procurement website was launched in June 2011. The Department of Contracts as well as a number of other Contracting Authorities have already started issuing e-tenders.</p>	<p>procedure and data integrity checks. This way, Government should start receiving a greater number of offers that do not fail the administrative and technical requirements of the call for tenders, and thus obtain more competitive prices and value for money.</p>
	<p>3.6.3: Setting up a Sector Skills Committee</p> <p>Government will be setting up a Sector Skills Committee, comprising representatives of industry, education and training, employers and employees.</p> <p>The committee will be responsible for the formulation of policies and the development of criteria for the validation of learning amongst other responsibilities. This committee will be complemented with the setup of sector skills units.</p>	<p>This Committee will ensure the implementation of standards in the validation of both formal and informal learning. The number of individuals wanting their competences to be validated for the first year is expected to range between 1000 and 1500.</p>
	<p>3.6.4: Culture and Creative Industries</p> <p>3.6.4.1: Promoting the Film Industry</p> <p>In 2012 Malta will be hosting the European Film Academy Awards and Government is committed to keep improving the skills in the Maltese film industry through industry-led international courses. Additionally, funds will be used for further development of the Maltese film industry, to which Government is</p>	<p>Hosting the European Film Academy Awards will give the Maltese Film Industry further visibility and possibly attract more investment in the sector</p>

	<p>allocating €250,000.</p> <p>3.6.4.2: Promoting Intellectual Property</p> <p>Budget 2012 launched new incentives to increase Malta's competitiveness in the cultural and creative sectors, both on a national as well as on an international level, will increase through benefits related to copyright.</p> <p>3.6.4.3: Fiscal Incentives for the culture and creativity sector</p> <p>In order to provide this sector with an incentive to better organise itself, there will be an exemption from the payment of registration fees for new companies in this sector as well as on their annual payments to the MFSA for three years with the aim of further helping this sector obtain a professional status and regular activities.</p> <p>Funding programmes provided direct assistance to 80 creative businesses through the INVEX programme, the Malta Film Fund, and the audiovisual sector training programme. Investments were also made in over 100 arts projects through the Malta Arts Fund and the President's Award for Creativity, while 18 projects were developed by schools and professionals through the Kreattiv programme.</p>	<p>This scheme should contribute towards attracting international artists to Malta, to make Malta more attractive to the film industry and to create broader economic benefits in various sectors.</p> <p>Culture and creativity can contribute towards the creation of more jobs. Having increased the allocation to the cultural and creative sectors by 13 percent in the previous budget, the sector is now seeing positive results in direct investments.</p>
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	<p>3.6.4.4: Promoting the development of Digital Games</p> <p>After investing in research and strategy for the development of digital games, Government announced three new measures namely :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of the Malta Games Fund with an investment of 150,000 euro • A tax credit scheme to Maltese companies wishing to commission educational or promotional digital games • Government is also extending the flat 15 percent income tax scheme for international professionals 	<p>The gaming sector is one of the fastest growing sectors worldwide. This incentive is expected to contribute to the growth of the gaming sector in Malta.</p>
	<p>3.6.5: Next Generation e-Government framework</p> <p>This measure aims to broaden the range of e-Government services offered. To revolutionise the way information is transferred between the general public and government departments. To allow government services to be accessed by citizens across other EU Member States. To reduce inconvenience by accessing all government services from a single place.</p>	<p>As a result, during the coming year Malta would have deployed 280 new e-Government services. A number of these services will result in reduction of administrative burdens on businesses.</p>

	<p>The Government entities will be encouraged to change their administrative processes to be able to gain from internal efficiency and effectiveness in their workflows. The services will be deployed on a common technology that has been set-up during 2011 and which will facilitate the roll-out of services.</p> <p>The measure is planned to be completed by Q4 2013</p>	
	<p>3.6.6: CREATE Scheme</p> <p>This scheme started on 1st January 2010. In the budget for 2012, it was announced that such scheme will be extended to the whole area of Valletta to encourage more creativity activity in the capital city having a planned end date of 31st December 2012.</p>	<p>This scheme will contribute to the generation of business in the following areas: Arts & Crafts; Performing Arts; Digital Media; Music; Literary Works; Design; Film & Video</p> <p>Furthermore the incentives provided for specific cluster zones will also help growth in these particular areas including Valletta.</p>
	<p>3.6.7: MicroInvest</p> <p>Micro enterprises and self-employed will be supported through a tax credit representing a percentage of the eligible expenditure and wages of newly recruited employees and/or apprentices.</p>	<p>The Maltese economy relies heavily on private investment. An incentive such as MicroInvest will encourage businesses to invest more money into their business and thus contribute to the economical growth of</p>

	<p>The scheme started in January 2010 and was expected to run until December 2011, 722 applicants have benefited from the scheme, with a total of over €5.8 million of tax credits to be issued and with 226 jobs created. Given its success the scheme was extended for another year.</p>	<p>the country. MicroInvest is expected to assist circa 300 beneficiaries yearly</p>
	<p>3.6.8: Setting up of an Expert Group to draw up a report and recommend measures to reduce sick leave in the public sector</p> <p>According to data issued by the Department of Social Security in 2009, the average days lost per employee per year in the private sector was 3.32 as opposed to the 8.34 in the public sector. In order to address this situation and narrow the gap between the private and public sector, Government will be setting up an expert group with a view to propose measures that will contribute to a significant reduction in sick leave in the public sector.</p> <p>The expert Group will be set up by the end of the second quarter 2012.</p>	<p>A high sick leave rate affects negatively the level of service delivered by Government since the same services will have to be delivered by fewer personnel. A reduction in unjustified sick leave should therefore improve the quality of government services and increase the productivity of government employees.</p>
	<p>3.6.9: Launching of the 'Greening our National Economy' document</p>	

	<p>The government's commitment to launch this document is an initial step for 'green' measures to be taken on board. In fact, this document provides practical policy recommendations and implementing measures as ways and means to green Malta's Economy.</p> <p>This document is expected to be launched in May 2012. It will also form the basis of the Green Economy Action Plan identified in the National Environment Policy (NEP). The process for the development of such action plan is planned to start once the 'Greening our National Economy' document is published. The Green Economy Action Plan is expected to be launched for public consultation by end of 2012.</p>	<p>The National Green Economy Document will act as a precursor to the launch of the actual Green Economy Action Plan and therefore at this stage it would be premature to try to estimate the real impact of this measure.</p>
New/updated commitments in relation to the 2020 targets (per target)		
<p>Education Target</p>	<p>3.1.3.6: Employment in the Social Economy Project</p> <p>Employment assistance aims to encourage employers to recruit individuals who, due to preconceived ideas, are likely to be excluded from the labour market, unless incentives are offered in relation to their employment. Thus this project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the employability and 	<p>About 200 jobseekers are expected to be employed through the assistance provided from this Project. The ETC will aim to achieve a total of 25% of the persons placed on this scheme retaining employment (50 persons in the same organization after the project or transferring to employment with another employer) one year from the termination of</p>

	<p>productivity of vulnerable groups with low employment rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate access to employment and upgrade the skills of those furthest away from the labour market through employment assistance. • Contribute to increase the country's labour supply and achieve greater social cohesion. <p>The project also intends to promote an inclusive society whilst also increasing the female participation in the labour market. It also aims to contribute towards creating job opportunities in Gozo.</p> <p>The measure has a total budget of € 1,095,172. It will run from the third quarter of 2011 up to the first quarter of 2014.</p>	<p>placement.</p> <p>Through the promotion of inclusive society, it is envisaged that a total of 140 persons will be reintegrated into the labour market thus contributing towards the attainment of the National Employment Rate Target under the EU 2020 strategy of 62.9%. This implies an increase of 0.08% in the employment rate, based on the LFS Q2/2011 data.</p>
	<p>3.1.3.7: Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities (ESPD)</p> <p>The main objective of this measure is to increase the participation rate of persons with disabilities in the labour market. This will be achieved through assessments and support services that include Learning Support Assistance during training, Job Coaching and Personal Assistance allowance to employers during work exposure and/or employment.</p> <p>Support services and schemes facilitate the</p>	<p>The expected impact of this measure is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase training opportunities amongst disabled persons – 34% • Increase the number of disabled persons in employment – 5% • Increase job retention amongst persons with disabilities – 2%

	<p>integration of this client group in the labour market, especially when one considers results obtained through past and current schemes implemented by the ETC such as ESF 19 – Supported Employment Scheme for persons with disability, the Bridging the Gap scheme and the Employment Aid Programme.</p> <p>This measure will run from September, 2011 up to February, 2014 with a budget of €661,816.</p>	<p>340 persons with disabilities are expected to benefit from this measure</p>
	<p>3.1.3.8: Pensioners working part-time for the government will pay 15% income tax</p> <p>Amendments will be introduced in the part – time tax rules so that pensioners working part-time with the Government will also become entitled to the 15% income tax rate which is already available to those working part – time in the private sector.</p>	<p>The actual impact is difficult to quantify however it will provide an extra incentive for older workers currently working with government to stay in employment beyond the retirement age.</p>
	<p>3.1.3.9: Incentives to Attract More Inactive Women to the Labour Force</p> <p>In its budget for 2012, the Government carried out an important reform of the income tax system in order to make the labour market more attractive to women. Hence, besides the single and joint computations, Malta has introduced a new category called the “Parent Computation”. This will be eligible for parents supporting children who are not gainfully employed up to 18 years of age and extended</p>	<p>Married couples with children will save between €150 and €840 in income tax yearly payments. More than 55,000 families will benefit through this measure which will result in a decrease of 10 million Euros in government tax revenue. The tax incentive together with the increase in maternity leave will provide a further incentive for women to stay in employment.</p>

	<p>to 21 years of age if the children are still in tertiary education.</p> <p>As from 1 January 2012, maternity leave has been increased from 14 to 16 weeks and it will be further increased by two weeks in 2013. The extra weeks will be payable from public finances with a fixed weekly rate of €160.</p> <p>In addition, as from 1 January 2012 adoption leave was also increased from 5 to 16 weeks. This entitlement will be extended to 18 weeks as from 1 January 2013.</p>	
	<p>3.1.3.10 Child Care Centres</p> <p>As part of the upgrading and embellishment of industrial estates, three child care centres are going to be build, one in Xewkija, another in Kordin and the third one in Mosta.</p> <p>These child care centres being part of an extensive programme of upgrading works in industrial zones are going to be co-financed by ERDF Funds.</p>	<p>The development of these three child care centres apart from contributing to the improvement of the working conditions of working parents, they will also provide further opportunities for children to develop social, emotional and learning skills. These child care centres will have a capacity of approximately 60 children each.</p>
<p>Research and Development</p>	<p>3.2.2.5: Preparation of a Health Research and Innovation Strategy</p> <p>This strategy will include the identification of medium and long term actions in health research and the identification of priority</p>	<p>The health strategy aims to provide strategic direction and guidance for more efficient and effective use of financial and human</p>

	<p>areas actions in health research, and the identification of specific actions to be implemented in the short, medium and longer term.</p> <p>The strategy is planned to be finalised in Q4 2012. It has an allocated budget of €10,000.</p>	<p>resources to spur increased levels of collaborative R&D undertaken in the health sector and support to innovation.</p>
	<p>3.2.2.6: Malta's National R&I Fund 2012</p> <p>The objective of this measure is to continue with the implementation of the National R&I Programme as well as to initialise the Commercialisation programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National R&I Programme: This has been ongoing since 2004. The R&I Programme for 2012 was launched in December 2011 and it funds projects starting on 1st October 2012. • Commercialisation Programme: The aim of this programme is for technology owners to study the feasibility of taking the technology to market addressing all the requirements particularly to attract capital investment. 	<p>It is expected that the following outcomes will be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity for R&D in Malta. • Increased collaboration between the industry and academia • A positive impact on the registration of patents. • Increase in the number of new locally developed products and services on the market. • Increased employment. • Increased exports of locally developed products and services. • Increased non-R&D innovation. • Further development of cross-sectoral synergies.
	<p>3.2.2.7: Setting-up and development of the</p>	

	<p>National Interactive Science Centre</p> <p>In order to enhance science-related education and training which are crucial to increasing Malta's competitiveness, the Government is investing in the construction of a new National Interactive Science Centre.</p> <p>This National Interactive Science Centre will encompass more than 3,500 square metres of indoor and outdoor exhibition space as well as areas dedicated to science shows, workshops, debates and discussions.</p> <p>Work on this project started in Q3 2010 and its opening is planned to take place in Q4 2014.</p>	<p>The Centre will act as a medium to instil an active interest in science, research and innovation in youth and encourage them to pursue a career in science and technology. In addition, it will give an alternative pathway to learning through interactivity whereby students will interact with material covered through the various science-related curricula in a novel way, while expanding learning opportunities to compliment formal learning.</p>
	<p>3.2.2.8: Awareness Campaign on Innovation</p> <p>During 2012, Government is to task Malta Enterprise to embark on a nation-wide Innovation and Growth Drive through an extensive campaign to raise awareness amongst industry and enterprise for the need to innovate and grow. This would complement ME's innovation, relationship management and business advisory services and would hence provide an integrated approach to Innovation management.</p>	<p>Innovation is the key to competitiveness and Government strongly believes that the country's competitiveness is intricately linked to the innovative capacity of business and enterprise. Malta enterprise is already offering a number of incentives specifically intended to support companies to carry out R&D and through the awareness campaign these initiatives will be given further visibility</p>
<p>Energy</p>	<p>3.3.2.7: Motor Vehicles Registration Tax</p>	

	<p>The aim of the reformed tax is to further incentivise a younger, smaller and less polluting fleet of vehicles in the Maltese Islands, without causing unnecessary distortions in the market. It is also a main source of revenue for the Government of Malta.</p> <p>This measure was launched on 1st January 2012, building on the first reform of 2009</p>	<p>By increasing the tax rates on Euro 3 and older vehicles (these being the more polluting) the Government is discouraging the importation of such vehicles and as a result making cleaner cars more attractive. This measure will also contribute to bring down the average age of motor vehicles in Malta.</p>
	<p>3.3.2.8: Scrappage Scheme</p> <p>The concept of a scrappage scheme was introduced in 2011, with the aim of encouraging first time buyers of vehicles or owners of aged cars to shift to new vehicles that meet preset criteria with regards to environmental considerations. The aim is to make newer, compact and less polluting vehicles more attractive, while also incentivising the removal of aged and polluting vehicles from the Maltese roads.</p> <p>This measure will run this year until 3,000 persons have benefited from the scheme.</p>	<p>3,000 persons who could potentially opt for older and higher polluting cars will be incentivised to buy new, compact and clean vehicles</p>
	<p>3.3.2.9: Energy Efficiency Measures for the Hospitality Sector</p> <p>This scheme is in the form of a soft loan and supports hotels, guesthouses, hostels, farmhouses, snack bars, and restaurants to implement energy saving solutions and to</p>	<p>Assisting businesses to invest in energy efficiency will not only reduce the enterprise's carbon footprint but will also contribute to</p>

	<p>invest in solutions for the generation of energy from renewable non-fossil energy sources. This initiative was launched on 5th May 2011 and its planned end date is 31st December 2013.</p>	<p>savings on electricity bills for such firms. The scheme is expected to assist 5 beneficiaries.</p>
	<p>3.3.2.10: Promotion of uptake of RES and building envelope insulation</p> <p>This measure aims to promote the uptake of solar water heaters and roof insulation and double glazing by issuing financial grants to households to encourage the purchase of new solar water heaters (maximum €400 per system installed) and the purchase of roof insulation and double glazing (maximum €1000 per dwelling).</p> <p>This measure was launched in the Budget for 2012 and runs for a year.</p>	<p>The measure will contribute to reduce Malta's dependency on fossil fuel and thus reduce CO2 emissions. As result of this measure, it is expected that 325MWh will be saved per year, assuming 1000kWh savings per solar water heater at €400 grant per system installed.</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>3.4.2.7: Increasing Accessibility, Flexibility and Innovation to MCAST Lifelong Learning Course Offer</p> <p>The aim of this project is that of increasing the attractiveness, accessibility and flexibility of the MCAST lifelong learning course offer and thus contributing to the consolidation of the workforce's skill. This project builds upon Measure 3.4.2.5 of the NRP 2011 (Introducing New Possibilities and Modalities of Learning</p>	<p>It is expected that a total of 365 new students shall benefit from the project with 80% of these participants obtaining certification.</p>

	<p>in Higher Education).</p> <p>This measure started in Q4 2011 and will run up to Q1 2015.</p>	
	<p>3.4.2.8: Making VET Education More Relevant and Attractive</p> <p>The aim of this project which builds upon Measure 3.4.2.2 of the NRP 2011 (Offering more Opportunities for Participation in Vocational Education) is that of conducting a substantial upgrading exercise within the context of vocational education between Levels 4 and 6. Through this project, MCAST's home-grown courses shall undergo a thorough review so that the courses provided not only supply industry with the required skills but also consolidate Malta's mark on the map of educational excellence. Furthermore, new courses in key economic areas will be designed and launched.</p> <p>The measure started in Q2 2011 and will run up to Q3 2014.</p>	<p>It is envisaged that a total of 465 new students shall benefit from this project with 75% of these participants obtaining certification.</p>
	<p>3.4.2.9: Inclusion for Employment</p> <p>MCAST shall review the curricula of its Pathway to Independent Living and Level 1-3 programmes to facilitate the progression of vulnerable students to higher level vocational programmes and ultimately employment. This</p>	<p>This measure will give students better possibilities to gain certification and potentially progress further in their studies. 300 MCAST Academic Staff Members are expected to benefit from capacity building courses and</p>

	<p>involves the review and design of syllabi with the required support, teaching material with relevant pedagogical skills, course accreditation and staff training.</p> <p>This measure started in Q3 2011 and is planned to end in Q3 2014.</p>	<p>therefore will be in a position to provide better assistance to students.</p>
	<p>3.4.2.10: The introduction of new courses and the building of the new campus of the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology</p> <p>This measure which builds upon measure 3.4.2.2 of the NRP 2011 (Offering more opportunities for participation in vocational education) sees the introduction of new courses and the building of the new campus of the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST).</p> <p>This measure will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The setting up of the Institute of Applied Science. • The extension of the MCAST Main Campus at Corradino – Phase A The Flexi-Teaching Building and ERDF Project 164 – Master Plan: Development of Applied Science and Business and Commerce Institutes. <p>The first phase of this project started in Q2 2010 and it is expected that the EU funded</p>	<p>Through this physical investment and the setting up of the new Institute of Applied Science, it is envisaged that there will be an increase in the number of courses offered, an increase in the number of students in future intakes, an increase in the number of 16+ students attending post-secondary training as well as an increase in the number of students taking up science subjects. Indeed it is envisaged that more students will gain relevant qualifications and skills. Thus, this will enhance their ability to potentially find employment within but not limited to the financial, health, social care, environmental, engineering, sciences or pharmaceuticals sectors.</p> <p>It is expected that a total of 1256 students shall benefit from the new facilities</p>

	phase shall be completed during Q4 2013.	
	<p>3.4.2.11: Foundation Certificate Hospitality Trades Course</p> <p>This course which was launched in October 2011 is mainly intended to consolidate secondary school education whilst acquiring basic operational skills in three main areas namely; food service, food preparation and production, and housekeeping operations.</p>	The Institute of Tourism (ITS) Course will attract & encourage students who only gained a school leaving certificate to pursue a career in the hospitality industry.
	<p>3.4.2.12 Get Qualified</p> <p>Get Qualified is an initiative provided by Malta Enterprise to support the personal development of individuals for the achievement of qualifications and certifications required by industry and at the same time contributing to increasing the amount of post-secondary graduates.</p> <p>This incentive is applicable to individuals following a course of studies leading to a certification, diploma, degree or post-graduate degree courses in a selected number of areas. Upon successful completion of studies, the student will benefit from a tax credit thus recovering part of the costs incurred.</p>	The measure is expected to support 400 individuals annually.
POVERTY	3.5.2.7: Providing an Independent Living Service to Persons with Disability at the	

	<p>Sonia Tanti Independent Living Centre at Hal Far</p> <p>The National Commission Persons with Disability (KNPD) has officially inaugurated the Sonia Tanti Independent Living Centre at Hal Far on the 15th June 2011. This project has been co financed by the European Union (ERDF – 072 Project). The total value of this Project was €1,506,620.36.</p> <p>The aim of this first Independent Living Centre (ILC) in Malta is to provide persons with disability and their families with advice, information and training in aspects of independent living such as mobility and assistive technology. The ILC will also offer an Outreach Service to disabled persons and their families in Gozo.</p> <p>It is expected that in 2012, the ILC will be fully operational.</p>	<p>The target of the Sonia Tanti Independent Living Centre is to asses 400 persons per year. This target has been set as part of the of the ERDF 072 Project Grant Agreement.</p>
	<p>3.5.2.8: €300 Grant per annum to pensioners over 80 who live independently in their own home</p> <p>Certain older people living on a pension can be risking poverty as age presents them with difficult challenges. In fact, the entitlement of a €300 grant per annum is aimed to help pensioners over 80 years of age to live independent lives in their own homes.</p>	<p>Nearly 12,000 elderly persons will benefit from this measure in 2012.</p>

	<p>3.5.2.9: Private Property Rental Scheme (Skema Kiri)</p> <p>Skema Kiri is a scheme launched by the Housing Authority (HA) whereby owners of vacant property can rent their properties to the authority to be in turn sublet at subsidised rates to vulnerable individuals or families. By partnering with the private sector, the HA will be able to meet the needs of its most vulnerable applicants in the short-term by exploiting the sizeable vacant private property stock.</p>	<p>The main objective of this scheme is that of addressing the priority waiting list of 535 applicants</p>
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