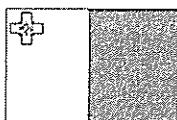


ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2012
[Final Version]
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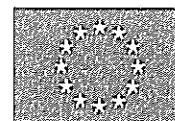
MEMBER STATE:	Republic of Malta
FUND:	European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals (IF)
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:	Funds and Programmes Division, Office of the Prime Minister
YEAR COVERED:	2012



General Programme Solidarity & Management of Migration Flows
European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (IF)

Co-financing rate: 75% EU Fund; 25% Beneficiary's Funds

Sustainable Management of Migration Flows



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Acronyms

AA	Audit Authority
AP	Annual Programme
CA	Certifying Authority
CBPs	Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy
CIP	Call for Proposals
DLLL	Lifelong Learning Directorate
DSS	Department of Social Security
EBF	External Borders Fund
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Economic Area
ERF	European Refugee Fund
ETC	Employment & Training Corporation
EU	European Union
EUPA	European Union Programmes Agency
IF	European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals
LLP	Lifelong Learning Programme
MAP	Multi-Annual Programme
MCS	Management & Control Systems
MCAST	Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology
MEEF	Ministry for Education, Employment & the Family
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
MJHA	Ministry for Justice & Home Affairs
MS	Member State
NAP	National Action Plan
NCPE	National Commission for the Promotion of Equality
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PSC	Projects Selection Committee

RA	Responsible Authority
RF	European Return Fund
SP	Special Priority
TA	Technical Assistance
TCNs	Third-Country Nationals
ToR	Terms of Reference
UoM	University of Malta
YiA	Youth in Action Programme

1. GENERAL RULES FOR SELECTION OF PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED UNDER THE PROGRAMME

1.1 Introduction

The general objective of the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals (IF) is to support the efforts of Member States to enable third country nationals to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into the European societies, in accordance with the Common Basic Principles for immigrant integration policy in the European Union. This general objective is the basis of the IF Annual Programme for 2012. This Annual Programme is addressing Priority 1, Action 1, 2, 4 and 6, Priority 3 Action 12 and 13 and Priority 4 Action 14 of the Multi Annual Programme 2007-2013.

1.2 Eligible Applicants

Applications are open to all organisations, including public entities, government departments, local councils, education institutions, employment institutions and research organisations; social partners; non-governmental organisations, voluntary organisations; private organisations and international organisations.

1.3 Project Selection Process

The Responsible Authority (RA) shall steer the project selection process. A Project Selection Committee (PSC) has been set up to support the RA in this task. The PSC is chaired by a member of the RA and includes external (to RA) experts. The main function of the PSC shall be the evaluation of project proposals. The PSC shall, in the first instance, confirm the eligibility of the proposals received (according to the eligibility criteria) and then proceed to evaluate the eligible proposals according to the selection criteria and rank the projects according to the marks obtained. Projects must obtain at least 50% of the marks in order to be considered for funding. The RA shall then proceed to sign Grant Agreements with the selected applicants. In cases where the proposals exceed the budget available, the RA shall co-finance the highest ranking projects with the rest remaining on a reserve list which may be activated should funding become available.

There will be no projects implemented by the RA using the executing method under this Programme. The selection of projects will follow the awarding body method¹. The RA shall issue an open call for proposals. Where possible the RA shall issue a pre-announcement before the call in order to allow sufficient time for stakeholders to mobilise resources. Both the pre-announcement as well as the call itself shall be published through a press release, on the media as well as on the RA's website. The open call shall be accompanied with Guidance Notes and an application form. The RA shall also hold information sessions for potential applicants. The applications received shall be assessed in line with the relevant criteria.

¹ Article 7 of Commission Decision 2008/457/EC (IF)

1.4 Project Selection Criteria

The selection of projects will be undertaken according to the awarding body method based on open call for proposals. .

The general rules for selecting the projects to be financed under the Annual Programme 2012 of the Fund follow the minimum standards set out in Council Decision No. 2007/435/EC (IF). The potential beneficiaries will be informed about the selection criteria and timetables according to which the actions will be funded.

1.5 Eligibility Criteria

A proposal must meet all the criteria listed below in order to be eligible under this call for proposals.

1. The application must be submitted by the deadline defined in the call;
2. The application submitted must be complete;
3. The applicant and its partner/s shall be an eligible applicant (see above)
4. The applicant and its partner/s must declare to implement the project respecting the non profit principle as laid down in Article 14 (2) of the basic act;
5. The proposed action has a duration that does not exceed the implementation period of AP 2012 i.e. completed by 30th June, 2014;
6. The objective(s) of the proposed action correspond(s) to the relevant objectives defined under the actions 1 to 8 of the 2012 IF Annual Programme;
7. Provide proof of co-financing²;
8. Address at least one of the indicators in the relative key action of the IF Multi Annual Programme; and
9. The action does not involve state aid.

1.6 Selection (Award) Criteria

Projects that meet the eligibility criteria shall proceed to the selection / award phase and will be assessed and ranked on the basis of the selection /award criteria listed below. Proposals must obtain at least 50% of the total available points in order to qualify for funding. Funding will be awarded to proposals with the highest scores in order of merit to the extent of available budget for this call. Any projects that make the pass-mark but for which there is no budget available, will be placed on a reserve list which will be activated should additional budget become available throughout the life-time of the Programme.

1. Relevance and justification of the proposed action

- Does the proposal address an existing and EU-relevant challenge? Does the applicant demonstrate a clear understanding of the context and of the challenge that the organisation is planning to address? Does the proposal add value in relation to previous projects of similar nature?
- Are the proposed activities adequately justified and designed to address the issue and to achieve the stated objectives?

2. Quality of the proposed action

² In case of national public bodies this is provided by the central budgetary authority. Details will be provided in the call for proposals in the case of other organisations.

- How well is the proposal prepared in terms of information (qualitative and quantitative) provided, clarity of action, work-plan, implementation period?
 - Is the proposed action feasible in terms of the budget (e.g. has market research been undertaken)?
3. *Partnership (if applicable)*
- Does the proposal include appropriate involvement of relevant stakeholders?
 - Applicants will gain marks for a more inclusive proposal (inclusion of relevant partners active in the sector).
 - Applicants will also gain additional marks in cases where the partnership is composed of both public and non- public (e.g. NGOs) organisations.
4. *Results and Indicators*
- Does the proposal identify quantifiable results?
 - Does the proposal address more than one indicator?
5. *Strategies for dissemination and publicity*
- Does an appropriate plan exist for the dissemination of results and knowledge transfer?
 - Does an appropriate strategy exist for giving publicity and visibility of the EU funding to a broad audience?
6. *Complementarity with other actions – national EU funded or other resources³*
7. *Readiness*
- How ready the project is to start? (have tenders/request for quotations been launched)
 - Have participants been identified?
 - Have the relevant partners identified their respective roles and functions?
 - Is there anything hindering the start of implementation.

³ In this regard, provision is made to consult with the Inter-Ministerial Co-Ordination Committee on EU Human Capital Investment Funding Programmes

Timeframe	Tasks	Proposed Timescales/ Completion dates
Stage 1: Programme Launch and Application Process	Call for applications	Q1 2012*
	Information Sessions & Information Campaigns	Q1 2012
	Deadline for applications	Q2 2012
	Appraisal of applications	Q2 2012
	Approval of projects by RA	Q2 2012
	Grant Agreements signed	Q3 2012
Stage 2: Project Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of activities • Monitoring by RA • Submission of request for payment forms • Management verifications including on the spot checks • Submission of interim/progress reports 	Q3 2012 till end Q2 2014
Stage 3: Project Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final reporting on all implementation and financial aspects of the project • Submission of final report to RA 	Q3 2014
End of Eligibility period for selected projects		30 th June, 2014

**This is a proposed timeframe. The open call for project proposals is subject to formal approval of the Annual Programme 2012 by the European Commission.*

1.7. Visibility of EC funding

In accordance with Article 35 of Commission Decision 2008/457/EC, all projects will ensure the correct reflection of EC funding in project documentation and presentations. Beneficiaries will be expected to fully understand the rules and guidelines regarding visibility and apply the relevant rules as required. The RA will provide advice or guidance as necessary, mainly through the manual of procedures and will supervise visibility during its monitoring activities.

As defined in Article 34 of the implementing rules, the RA will ensure all projects receiving over €100,000 will display a permanent plaque detailing the name of the project and the timing of the EC funding. Appropriate provisions with regard to the visibility of the EU logo will be included in the grant agreements

1.8. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

In this regard, provision is made to consult with the Inter-Ministerial Co-Ordination Committee on EU Human Capital Investment Funding Programmes

The RA shall ensure that there is no double funding and that co-financed actions complement actions undertaken within the national migration and integration policy measures as well as other relevant actions co-financed by the other EC instruments.

The RA is common for the four Funds under the General Programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows and this ensures complementarity from a strategic perspective. Moreover, the RA forms part of the Permanent Secretariat for EU funds, and therefore complementarity with all other EU funds is enhanced.

2. **CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS (if appropriate)**

This section has been deleted in the revised Implementing Rules

3. ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE PROGRAMME UNDER THE PRIORITIES CHOSEN

State of play on the implementation of key strategic objectives at the national level

On a national level, Malta has already been implementing some of the strategic objectives the Commission envisaged for 2012 – 2013. Hereunder is a brief description of the nature of the implementation of the different main areas of focus and which reflects the intent to mainstream integration at various levels of public service provision.

One of the main focus areas involves the enhancement of active participation of both TCNs and the receiving society in the process of integration. A number of initiatives were implemented to achieve this aim, for instance in 2010 the Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family (MEEF) adopted a policy to exempt TCNs who satisfy certain stipulated criteria⁴ from paying tuition fees at State educational institutions⁵.

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) has also undertaken a number of research and training projects⁶ related to equality, including the promotion of a shared understanding and enhanced ownership of relevant stakeholders to safeguard racial equality and combat racism and xenophobia. In this regard NCPE has compiled a National Action Plan (NAP) and also reviewed the National Minimum Curriculum with the aim of mainstreaming equality by safeguarding equal treatment and non-discrimination in the sphere of education.

On the level of social security policies, the Department of Social Security (DSS) regards that TCNs may qualify for contributory benefit if they satisfy the statutory conditions for the benefits for which they apply. Such conditions are exactly the same for Maltese and EU citizens. The Employment & Training Corporation (ETC) provides equal access to services provided through the ETC's job centres, including information on the availability of jobs with the private sector.

Another focus area involves the increase of effective integration measures addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups (women, youth and children, the elderly, etc). Through a project VS/2010/0569 – *Think Equal*, which is being co-financed by the EU PROGRESS fund, NCPE is also carrying a study to measure the perception, level of awareness and acceptance of equality and diversity, as well as the occurrence of discrimination. This study will address two specific groups, namely youths and public employees. Hence, this study will analyse the acceptance of equality and diversity, and the frequency of discrimination both within the youth sector as well as in the public administration. This project will be also focusing on the multilevel cooperation between the different levels of governance involved in the development of integration strategies and measures. In this regard a qualitative research is currently being

⁴

⁵ It is important to note however, that such exemptions apply to tuition fees at non-European Union rates, therefore any fees applicable to courses of study and payable by Maltese and EU students will need to be paid by applicants.

⁶ A number of these projects have been funded by PROGRESS

implemented with the aim of identifying the nature and extent of the discrimination experienced by racial minorities in employment, in access to and supply of goods and services, and communication with authorities. This research will eventually provide data upon which policies may be reviewed or established as well as data on which racial equality mainstreaming may be undertaken.

Through another project co-financed by the EU PROGRESS fund is *VS/2009/0405 – Strengthening Equality beyond Legislation*, NCPE is conducting another research to identify the media preferred by minorities in Malta, focusing on the African minority. As a result of this study, NCPE carried out a short-term campaign with the aim of disseminating information on these issues through a short series of training/information sessions.

The Employment & Training Corporation (ETC) also provides equal access to services provided through the ETC's job centres, including information on the availability of jobs with the private sector. In case of TCNs with long term residence status and their family members in Malta under the family reunification rules, may also participate under the EU co-funded Employment Aid Programme. TCN's with long term residence status are eligible for all services provided by the ETC.

Another focus area involves pre-departure measures to support TCNs moving or wishing to move to Malta to integrate in Maltese society. Missions have access to information about citizenship matters and processing of relative applications by means of information leaflets that are available on the website of the MFA. Information on living and working conditions in Malta is also available on the website of The Employment and Training Corporation (ETC).

Actions Identified for the 2012 Annual Programme

For 2012, Malta intends to continue to focus on the following main actions which were originally identified in the Multi-Annual Programme 2007 – 2013 and which following the relevant consultations with stakeholders have been deemed to be fully in accordance with the specific objectives contained in Articles 3(a), 3(b), 3(c) and 3(d) of Council Decision 2007/435/EC and the eligible actions contained in Article 4 of the same Council Decision..

This Annual Programme is addressing actions 1, 2, 4, 6, 12, 13 and 14 of the Multi Annual Programme 2007-2013. Malta will consider the remaining actions when drafting the 2013 Annual Programme.

3.1 Actions Implementing Priority 1

The implementation of the events proposed for the purpose of introduction of 'Common basic principles for policy of integration of immigrants in the EU' in practice.

*Action 1: Improvement of procedures for preparation of admission procedure to ensure better integration process
(Action 1 of the Multi Annual Programme)*

a. Purpose and scope of the actions

The purpose of this action is to improve the procedures for preparation and implementation of the admission procedure for newly arrived TCNs. The admission procedure is prepared in consultation and cooperation with interested institutions and experts and ensures better conditions for TCNs integration. Through consultation with experts from different areas, it could be possible to clearly define the needs of newly arrived TCNs and subsequently streamline admission procedures.

This action will aim to identify gaps in the current procedure and address the need for stronger coordination between the authorities acting as front liners with TCNs and NGO's working with TCNs. The level of coordination between various Ministries will be improved to ensure that a harmonized policy across different Ministries. Such policy should re-assess the processes, starting from customs to the right to education and medical support. It is felt that presently support and services are being given in a fragmented manner and on a case by case situation. The results will eventually be used to provide TCNs with more information on the admission procedure before they actually come to Malta. This action will also provide opportunities for the dissemination of information to TCNs by means of various media.

b. Expected grant recipients

Applications are open to public entities including local councils, education institutions, employment institutions and research organisations; social partners; voluntary organisations; private organisations and international organisations.

c. Where appropriate justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

N/A. This action will be subject to an open call for proposals.

d. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Number of projects and measures undertaken; number and categories of the target group assisted or participating.

For the period 2012 – 2013 the implementation of this action addresses the following key strategic objective identified in the SOLID communication SOLID/2011/28:-

Main area of focus 4: *Reflect on pre-departure measures as a support to integration. Hence, this action will identify which pre-departure information will be provided to TCNs prior to their admission to Malta.*

e. Visibility of EC funding- Refer to section 1.7

f. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate- Refer to Section 1.8 for EU funds, and therefore complementarity with all other EU funds is enhanced.

g. Financial Information

The action requires a total financing amounting of €120,000 with a community co-financing of 75% of the total contribution, that is €90,000 and a national financing of 25% that is €30,000.

Action 2: Development and improvement of programmes and activities for introduction of newly arrived third-country nationals to the Maltese society and knowledge about Malta

(Action 2 of the Multi Annual programme)

a. Purpose and scope of the actions

Action 2 aims at the implementation of common basic principle 4 (basic knowledge of the language, the history and the institutions of the host society is essential to integration). Projects under this objective are consistent with the choice to direct the appropriation of resources under the IF primarily to the integration of newcomers. Actions within this objective focus primarily on the target groups "newcomers" and 'old comers'. The first group includes foreigners- meaning persons without nationality of one EU country- between the age categories 18 and 65 who entered Malta after 1 January 2007 on the basis of non-temporary stay or people who were obliged to follow civic introduction courses. The second group includes immigrants in the same age category who lived in Malta before 1 January 2007 but not during the 8 years of their school age and who do not hold any diploma from which it can be made clear that the person has knowledge of the Maltese language and the Maltese society at a certain level. Both of these groups fall under the scope of "newcomers" set out by the IF⁷.

The purpose of projects under this action is to contribute to the development and use of participation as an instrument of integration. Participation is expected to increase the chance of success for an integration examination by integrated TCNs and to improve the *results* of integration programmes in terms of factual knowledge of Malta and the Maltese society. This instrument also creates a bridge between integration and (early) active participation of immigrants in society, and the host country is actively involved in the integration process of newcomers. This action will address specific priority 1

b. Expected grant recipients

Applications are open to public entities including local councils, education institutions, employment institutions and research organisations; social partners; voluntary organisations; private organisations and international organisations.

c. Where appropriate, justification regarding projects) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

N/A. This action will be subject to an open call for proposals.

d. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Number of projects and measures undertaken; number and categories of the target group assisted or participating.

⁷ Persons having the status of a refugee, having a residence permit on other grounds of international protection or have sought asylum on which no definitive decision has been taken yet, fall outside the target group of these actions.

For the period 2012 – 2013 the implementation of this action addresses the following key strategic objective identified in the SOLID communication SOLID/2011/28:-

- Main area of focus 1: *Enhance active participation of both TCN and the receiving society in the process of integration*

e. Visibility of EC funding- refer to section 1.7

f. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate- refer to section 1.8.

g. Financial Information

The action requires a total financing amounting of €80,000 with a community co-financing of 75% of the total contribution, that is €60,000 and a national financing of 25%, that is €20,000.

Action 3: Development and improvement of programmes and activities to establish and maintain relations with specific groups of third-country nationals (for example, dependants of persons subject to admission procedure, children, women, elderly people, disabled or illiterate persons).

(Action 4 of the Multi Annual Programme)

a. Purpose and scope of the action

The group of TCNs in Malta is not homogeneous. This action aims to create the programmes and activities on integration that needs to be devised according to specific needs. Studies about the composition of TCN's are required to adapt activities to specific groups within TCNs. The specific needs of particular minority groups within TCNs eg. women, youth, children, elderly people, illiterate persons and the disabled should be mainstreamed throughout policy formulation. This action fits the specific priority 2 (SP2) *Specific Target Groups* specified in the Strategic Guidelines

b. Expected grant recipients

Applications are open to public entities including local councils, education institutions, employment institutions and research organisations; social partners; voluntary organisations; private organisations and international organisations.

c. Where appropriate, justification regarding projects) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

N/A. This action will be subject to an open call for proposals.

d. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Number of projects and measures undertaken; number and categories of the target group assisted or participating.

For the period 2012 – 2013 the implementation of this action addresses the following key strategic objective identified in the SOLID communication SOLID/2011/28:-

- Main area of focus 2: *Increase the effectiveness of integration measures addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups (women, youth and children, the elderly, etc.)*

e. Visibility of EC funding- refer to section 1.7

As defined in Article 34 of the implementing rules, the RA will ensure all projects receiving over €100,000 will display a permanent plaque detailing the name of the project and the timing of the EC funding. Appropriate provisions with regard to the visibility of the EU logo will be included in the grant agreements

f. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate- refer to section 1.8

g. Financial Information

The action requires a total financing amounting of €100,000 with a community co-financing of 75% of the total contribution, that is €75,000 and a national financing of 25%, that is €25,000.

Action 4: Development and improvement of programmes and activities to strengthen the capacity of the Maltese society to adapt to diversity, to maintain trustful relations with third-country nationals as well as to strengthen the assent to integration.
(Action 6 of the Multi Annual Programme)

a. Purpose and scope of the actions

Action 4 may be considered as an implementation of basic principle 1 (integration is a dynamic two way process of reciprocal adaptation by all immigrants and residents of the Member States) and basic principle 7 (frequent contacts between immigrants and citizens of the Member States is a fundamental mechanism for integration).

Integration is carried out at local level. The purpose of this action is to help reduce the social disparities by increasing mutual understanding, acceptance and knowledge about culture and background between different groups by bringing people into contact with one another. This will be achieved by promoting intercultural dialogue at local level aimed at joint activities that aim to establish long-term contact. This action also aims to actively express and put into practice the concept of active citizenship. Skills and competencies are needed for active citizenship practices. These must be taught and transferred. Education is an important vehicle for this. But facilities for educational support, social activation, (social) training courses, and welfare work at communities can also contribute to this. Projects under this action focus (at local level) on society as a whole, and involve the host country in the immigrant integration process (Article 2.2 of the Council Decision 2007/435/EC). In accordance with this action, projects are considered for financing that at local level and by means of long-term joint activities, promote cohesion by breaking down generalisations about and within different population groups (us-them mentality). The requirements relating to these joint activities are that they bring immigrants and the indigenous population into contact with one another, are of a long-term nature and are based on shared interests. This objective fits in with specific priorities 4 *Intercultural dialogue*.

b. Expected grant recipients

Applications are open to public entities including local councils, education institutions, employment institutions and research organisations; social partners; voluntary organisations; private organisations and international organisations.

c. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

N/A. This action will be subject to an open call for proposals.

d. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Number of projects and measures undertaken; number and categories of the target group assisted or participating.

For the period 2012 – 2013 the implementation of this action addresses the following key strategic objective identified in the SOLID communication SOLID/2011/28:-

- Main area of focus 3: *Foster the multilevel cooperation between the different levels of governance involved in the development of integration strategies and measures and encouraging local action and a bottom-up approach to integration.*

e. Visibility of EC funding- refer to section 1.7

f. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate- refer to section 1.8

g. Financial Information

The action requires a total financing amounting of €80,000 with a community co-financing of 75% of the total contribution that is €60,000 and a national financing of 25% that is €20,000.

Actions Implementing Priority 3

Building capacities within policy, coordination and building intercultural knowledge on various levels and governmental departments

Action 5: Training on the intercultural competence, capacity strengthening and diversity management for policy makers, servants and other persons working in the areas pertinent to the objectives of the IF.

(Action 12 of the Multi Annual Programme)

a. Purpose and scope of the action

Training on intercultural aspects is especially important for staff working in sectors of the public service who come in direct contact with TCNs when providing consultation or services. Diversity management is important to cater for TCNs specific needs. This action fits with the specific priority No. 5 (SP 5) *Involvement of the Host Society in the Integration Process.*

b. Expected grant recipients

Applications are open to public entities including local councils, education institutions, employment institutions and research organisations; social partners; voluntary organisations; private organisations and international organisations.

c. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

N/A. This action will be subject to an open call for proposals.

d. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Number of projects and measures undertaken; number and categories of the target group assisted or participating.

For the period 2012 – 2013 the implementation of this action addresses the following key strategic objective identified in the SOLID communication SOLID/2011/28:-

- Main area of focus 3: *Foster the multilevel cooperation between the different levels of governance involved in the development of integration strategies and measures and encouraging local action and a bottom-up approach to integration*

e. Visibility of EC funding- refer to section 1.7

f. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate- refer to section 1.8

g. Financial Information

The action requires a total financing amounting of €100,000 with a community co-financing of 75% of the total contribution, that is €75,000 and a national financing of 25%, that is €25,000.

*Action 6: Policy capacity building, coordination and intercultural competence building in the Member States across the different levels and departments of government
(Action 13 of the Multi Annual Programme)*

a. Purpose and scope of the action

This priority is related to the main objective of national integration policy, the reduction of the economic, social and cultural gap between the non-indigenous population and the indigenous population by increasing their joint economic, social and cultural participation. The objectives of actions within this particular action will be to support capacity building in the public service and sector at local and national level, to strengthen the coordination and information exchange between government entities and to promote intercultural awareness at various levels of top and middle management. It is also important to develop and mainstream a common vision and a common policy agenda in the field of migration and integration amongst government entities. This action addresses specific priority 1 *Participation as a means of promoting the integration of TCNs in society.*

b. Expected grant recipients

Applications are open to public entities including local councils, education institutions, employment institutions and research organisations; social partners; voluntary organisations; private organisations and international organisations.

c. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

N/A. This action will be subject to an open call for proposals.

d. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Number of projects and measures undertaken; number and categories of the target group assisted or participating.

For the period 2012 – 2013 the implementation of this action addresses the following key strategic objective identified in the SOLID communication SOLID/2011/28:-

- Main area of focus 3: *Foster the multilevel cooperation between the different levels of governance involved in the development of integration strategies and measures and encouraging local action and a bottom-up approach to integration*

e. Visibility of EC funding- refer to section 1.7

f. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate- refer to section 1.8

g. Financial Information

The action requires a total financing amounting of €120,000 with a community co-financing of 75% of the total contribution, that is €90,000 and a national financing of 25%, that is €30,000.

3.2 Actions Implementing Priority 4

Exchange of experience, verified procedures and information in the field of integration among member states

*Action 7: Seminars, workshops & conferences to share best practices on an international platform
(Action 14 of the Multi Annual Programmes)*

a. Purpose and scope of the action

The scope of this action is to support cooperation, exchange of best practices amongst Member States in the area of migration and integration. This action may include the following activities:-

- a) creation of networks between Member States in order to exchange the experience, verified procedures and information with regards to integration policies and procedures;
- b) support to comparative research between Member States focusing on the impact of integration on minority groups within TCNs

Insofar this action reflects SP 5 *Involvement of the host society in the integration process*

b. Expected grant recipients

Applications are open to public entities including local councils, education institutions, employment institutions and research organisations; social partners; voluntary organisations; private organisations and international organisations.

c. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body

N/A. This action will be subject to an open call for proposals.

d. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Number of projects and measures undertaken; number and categories of the target group assisted or participating.

For the period 2012 – 2013 the implementation of this action addresses the following key strategic objective identified in the SOLID communication SOLID/2011/28:-

- Main area of focus 2: *Increase the effectiveness of integration measures addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups (women, youth and children, the elderly, etc)*
- Main area of focus 3: *Foster the multilevel cooperation between the different levels of governance involved in the development of integration strategies and*

measures and encouraging local action and a bottom-up approach to integration

e. Visibility of EC funding- refer to section 1.7

f. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate- refer to section 1.8

g. Financial Information

The action requires a total financing amounting of €80,000 with a community co-financing of 75% of the total contribution, that is €60,000 and a national financing of 25%, that is €20,000.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (Action 8)

4.1 Purpose of the Technical Assistance

The following activities are envisaged to be implemented:

- Expenditure related to the fulfilment of the obligations assigned to the designated authorities (e.g. salaries of officials within the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment and the Internal Audit and Investigations Department, purchase of computer software, computer equipment, furniture, stationary and consumables, administrative costs);
- Expenditure (including travel costs and subsistence allowance) aimed at sharing of experience and good practices between local stakeholders and European counterparts (such as meetings with other RAs) with the aim of improving the system and making it more effective and efficient. Costs charged to Technical Assistance will include accommodation for a number of Member State officers travelling to Malta or Maltese officers travelling to other Member States as well as organisation of meeting/s;
- Expenditure related to project selection, monitoring, reporting, management verifications as well as audit and control;
- Expenditures related to external expertise – e.g the fulfilment of other tasks e.g. evaluation;
- Expenditure related to translation and interpretation (as appropriate);
- Expenditure necessary for the preparation and dissemination of documentation and information (e.g. compilation and publication of manuals of procedure, explanatory documents and publication of calls for proposals);
- Expenditure (including travel costs and subsistence allowance) relating to participation of officials in various meetings (e.g. SOLID Committee), different workshops and training conferences which are directly related to their function;
- Expenditures related to the training of officials and stakeholders, including Beneficiaries and partner organisations;
- Expenditures related to publicity and information activities (including programmes on local media regarding the results and impacts of the Programme, organization of seminars and information meetings for potential applicants etc...);
- Expenditure related to the setting up of an electronic management information system.

The costs incurred under Technical Assistance will be incurred in compliance with Chapter IV of annex XI of the IR (Decision (2008) 795 final.

The TA of each of the four Funds have been entirely merged reflecting Article 14 of each of the basic acts of the four Funds which stipulates that when designated authorities are common for the four Funds, the appropriations for the TA expenditure on each of the annual programmes concerned may be merged. In this regard the actual charge to the respective TA allocation shall be allocated between the four Funds on the basis of simple and representative apportionment formulae.

The TA under the four Funds for a particular AP will be merged into one fund and treated as a project. Expenditure on TA will be charged to this fund. The appropriations from the four Funds will be calculated on the basis of the ratio of the TA for a particular fund of the total available TA for that AP.

The RA has established a procedure whereby TA will be considered as a project in itself and managed by the same Project Manager. An approval process has been established where TA is approved by the Director EU Funds prior to the actual procurement. This prevents the risk of double financing since TA is managed by the same individual within the RA also subject to financial control.

4.2 Expected quantified results

The main result of the use of Technical Assistance is the successful implementation of the 2012 Program. Expected results, depending on the actual activities carried out, will be as follows:

- 70 % increase in capacity⁸;
- Successful implementation of the Programme;
- Effective announcement of Open Calls (in newspapers, websites, etc);
- The organisation of at least 6 bilateral monitoring meetings;
- The organization of at least one conference to be organized per year for beneficiaries and stakeholders;
- Engagement of external evaluators to carry out an independent external evaluation of the annual program after closure of projects where necessary;
- The setting up of an electronic management information system;

4.3 Visibility of EC Funding

The EU logo will be applied to all materials prepared (instruction documents, application forms, advertising materials, etc) and also equipment which is purchased (e.g. computers). When required, information activities (for launching of call, etc) will be carried out and media articles will be published in order to publicise any relevant development.

The RA also intends to publicise the results of the Programme using different media

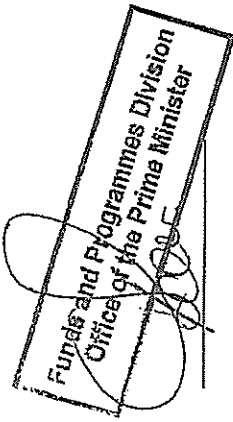
⁸ This figure refers to all 4 funds.

5. Draft Financial Plan

Annual Programme: Draft Financial Plan							
Member State: Malta							
Annual programme concerned: Year 2012							
Fund: The European Integration Fund of Third-Country Nationals							
		Ref. Priority	Community contribution (a)	Public or private allocation* (b)	Total (c= a + b)	% EC (d = a/c)	Share of total (e= c/total c)
<i>(all figures in EUR)</i>							
Action 1: Improvement of procedures for preparation of admission procedure to ensure better integration process	1	90,000	30,000	120,000	75%	16.43%	
Action 2: Development and improvement of programmes and activities for introduction of newly arrived third-country nationals to the Maltese society and knowledge about Malta	1	60,000	20,000	80,000	75%	10.95%	
Action 3: Development and improvement of programmes and activities to establish and maintain relations with specific groups of third-country nationals	1	75,000	25,000	100,000	75%	13.69%	
Action 4: Development and improvement of the programmes and activities to strengthen the capacity of the Maltese society to adapt to diversity, to maintain trustful relations with third-country nationals as well as to strengthen the assent to integration.	1	60,000	20,000	80,000	75%	10.95%	
Action 5: Training on the intercultural competence, capacity strengthening and diversity management for policy makers, servants and other persons working in the areas pertinent to the objectives of the IF.	3	75,000	25,000	100,000	75%	13.69%	
Action 6: Policy capacity building, coordination and intercultural competence building in the Member States across the different levels and departments of government	3	90,000	30,000	120,000	75%	16.43%	
Action 7: Seminars, workshops & conferences to share best practices on an international platform	4	60,000	20,000	80,000	75%	10.95%	
Technical Assistance		50,500	0	50,500	100%	6.91%	
TOTAL		€560,500	€170,000	730,500	77%	100%	

* In case of projects undertaken by a public entity, the public allocation is 25% of the total approved budget allocation.

** The amounts of private co-financing mentioned are based on estimates. The relation between these amounts depends on grant applications and may therefore deviate both upwards and downwards.



Mr. Raphael Scerri
Director General Funds & Programmes
Office of the Prime Minister

16th April 2012

Date