

ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2010

THE EUROPEAN FUND FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

MEMBER STATE:	MALTA
FUND:	European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals
PERIOD:	2010
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:	Ministry of Education, Employment and Family Palazzo Ferreria, Republic Street Valletta, Malta
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Acronyms

- **AA:** Audit Authority
- **AP:** Annual Programme
- **CA:** Certifying Authority
- **CBP:** Common Basic Principles
- **CfP:** Call for Proposals
- **DA:** Delegated Authority
- **DG EAC:** Directorate General for Education and Culture
- **DG JFS:** Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security
- **EC:** European Commission
- **EIF:** European Integration Fund
- **EU:** European Union
- **EUPA:** European Union Programmes Agency
- **IAID:** Internal Audit and Investigations Division
- **INTI:** Integration of Third-Country Nationals
- **GA:** Grant Agreement
- **MAP:** Multi-Annual Programme
- **MCS:** Management and Control Systems
- **MEEF:** Ministry for Education, Employment and the Family
- **MJHA:** Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs
- **MOP:** Manual of Procedures
- **MS:** Member States
- **NA:** National Agency
- **NCP:** National Contact Point
- **NGO:** Non-Governmental Organisation
- **PL:** Project Leader
- **PSC:** Project Selection Committee
- **RA:** Responsible Authority
- **TC:** Third-Country
- **TCNs:** Third-Country Nationals

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

In 2010, the selection of projects to be co financed from the European Fund for the Integration of Third- Country Nationals (TCNs) shall be carried out in compliance with the approved Management and Control Systems (MCS) established by the Responsible Authority (RA); the Ministry of Education, Employment and Family – MALTA (MT), for the period 2007 to 2013. On behalf of the RA, the Delegated Authority (DA); European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA) will:

- Guarantee the sound and efficient management in Malta of the EIF for TCNs;
- Compile and set-up the necessary documentation to manage the EIF;
- Preserve on a National level, the good reputation of the EU and of the framework of the general programme: 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows' ;
- Create awareness through adequate information and advice;
- Provide assistance to enable potential applicants to maximize the utilization of their resources in accordance with the specifications of the EIF;
- Issue a Call for Proposals (CfP) to provide potential applicants with the opportunity to utilize the EIF appropriately by implementing quality projects;
- Identify opportunities abroad which will enable RA and DA staff and key stakeholders in Malta to broaden their knowledge and gain good practice on integration and any related issues;
- Provide assistance to Grant Recipients during the project implementation stage.

Project proposals may be submitted by governmental, private and/or non-governmental-entities. All submitted project applications shall undergo a technical, financial and qualitative evaluation

The DA shall take the necessary precautions to ensure that all actors involved in the evaluation and selection processes respect the principles of confidentiality and non-conflict of interest.

TECHNICAL EVALUATION

A formal eligibility check shall verify whether all project proposals comply with the exclusion and eligibility criteria pre-announced in the Manual of Procedures (MOP), the relevant CfP and the application form applicable to the selection concerned.

FINANCIAL EVALUATION

The DA shall ensure that all eligible proposals undergo a formal financial assessment. This exercise will enable the DA to verify that the grant amount together with the other income earmarked will allow the applicant organization to carry out the proposed project. Furthermore the DA shall formally check the financial capacity of the applicant as per established procedures.

QUALITATIVE EVALUATION

The selection of projects to be financed under the fund will be organised on the basis of a peer review system - that is with the help of independent experts - in a fully transparent way

guaranteeing impartiality and equal treatment to all applicants. The results of the independent evaluators will be presented to an independent adjudication committee; The Project Selection Committee (PSC).

PSC: Project Selection Committee

In view of preparing the grant award decision, the DA shall establish the Project Selection Committee (PSC).

The PSC shall:

- Consist of at least 3 members; the members shall represent at least two independent organisational entities from the civil society with no hierarchical link between them. Work in accordance with formal rules of procedure, which shall be decided by the DA and formally communicated to the PSC members before commencement. The rules of procedure shall detail at least the working method of the committee as well as formal rules for decision taking;
- Work from the list of grant applications following a quality assessment by the independent evaluators;
- Acknowledge the results of the formal eligibility checks;
- Provide an objective method for dealing with grant applications of the same quality level (e.g. assessment by a third expert);
- Draw up a list for accepted, rejected and proposals placed on the reserve list;
- Underline the grant amount for each proposal placed on the approved and reserve list;
- Endorse a report drawn by the secretary to the committee which will include the approved, rejected and reserve list of proposed projects.

Grant Award Decision

The Grant Award Decision (GAD) shall be taken by the Head of the DA, the person who is legally authorised to sign on its behalf. In principle the GAD shall be based on the report (and selection lists) endorsed by PSC. In duly justified cases, the Head of the DA may deviate from the selection lists provided by the PSC- these shall be appropriately recorded and documented.

The GAD shall specify the following:

- The subject and the overall amount of the decision;
- For approved applications: the name of the beneficiary, the title of the project, the grant amount awarded;
- For applications put on the reserve list: the name of the applicant, the title of the project, the grant amount to be awarded;
- For rejected applications: the name of the applicant, the title of the project and the reasons for rejection;

INDICATIVE TIME SCHEDULE

Launch of call for proposals:	01/09 /2010
Deadline for the submission of Grant Applications:	01/11/ 2010
Evaluation of Applications:	Maximum of six weeks from the date of the deadline for the submission of Grant Applications
Selection of Applications:	Maximum of eight weeks from the date of the deadline for the submission of Grant Applications (PSC)
Selection Results:	Maximum of ten weeks from the date of the deadline for the submission of Grant Applications (PSC). These shall be communicated to the applicants and published by the DA
Signing of Grant Agreements:	To be signed by the legally authorised person to sign on behalf of the beneficiary followed by the statutory representative of the RA and the DA

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

No changes compared to the final version of the M&C system description.

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

Pursuant to Annex 11 of the Commission Decision 2008/457/EC¹ and its latest revision on 9 July 2009, the period of eligibility of expenses financed from the AP 2010 runs till the end of June of the year 2012.

Priorities under the Fund reflect the current situation in Malta. The EIF shall support Third-Country Nationals that is any person who is not a citizen of the Union. According to the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) 2007 the policy areas of anti-discrimination together with access to the labour market are considered to be Malta's weak points, most probably related to the ongoing sensitive issue amongst others, of the influx of refugees/irregular migrants. This has a direct impact on the general perception of TCNs in Malta notwithstanding that the Fund supports only legal TCNs.

¹ Commission Decision of 5 March 2008 laying down rules for the implementation of Council Decision No. 2007/435/EC establishing the European Fund for Integration of Third-Country Nationals for the period 2007 to 2013 as part of the General Programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows (OJ L 167, 27. 6. 2008 + OJ L179, 10.07.2009)

The migration and integration of TCNs is a dynamic process. Intercultural competence, co-operation and pragmatism between relevant institutions and communities are imperative for the development of efficient integration policy trends and measures in the different target areas.

Furthermore different research studies, evaluation methodologies, indicators and other similar tools for the monitoring and evaluation of migration and integration policies and measures should be encouraged on all levels of management. Any information, acquired knowledge and/or shared experience are to be disseminated nationwide for maximum benefit by Maltese and TCNs alike.

3.1 Actions implementing Priority 1: Implementation of actions aimed at putting the 'Common Basic Principles for immigrant integration policy in the European Union' into practice.

Actions of this priority are first oriented towards newly arrived TCNs and include the programmes and activities dedicated to support new arrivals from TCs to obtain basic knowledge about Malta and integrate them into society. This is to note that the need for integration of TCNs to live in Malta for a limited time differs from those planning to stay longer. The Commission communication 'A Common Agenda for Integration for Integration: Framework for the Integration of TCNs in the European Union' indicates general basic principles for immigrant integration policy implemented by the following actions:

3.1.1 Action 1: *Improvement of procedures for preparation of admission procedure to ensure better integration process*

a) Purpose and scope of the action

The purpose of this action is to improve the procedures for preparation and implementation of the admission procedure for TCNs. The admission procedure is prepared in consultation and cooperation with interested institutions and experts and ensures better conditions for the integration of third-country nationals. In consultation with experts from different areas it could be possible to clearly define the needs of third-country nationals and correspondingly harmonise the admission procedures. While improving the admission procedures, consultations may be held with institutions, experts, non-governmental organizations from other countries, etc., information may be exchanged on the needs of third-country nationals, immigration and integration processes. This action will enhance the needs for coordination between the authorities and NGOs working with third country nationals. In this field, policy coordination should be promoted between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. Such policy should reflect the whole process, 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. This Action will address Specific Priority 1 (SP1) as well as the specific need of young children and young people to integrate both educationally, socially and culturally (SP2).

b) Expected grant recipients

Final beneficiaries are defined according to rules established in the Council Decision 2007/435/EC and other EU Legal acts regarding implementation of the Integration Fund Programme. Final beneficiaries are public or private legal persons registered and acting in the Republic of Malta or public legal persons which registration in the Republic of Malta is not necessary according to the national legislation. Therefore the non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as the NGOs), national, regional and local authorities, non-profit organizations, private or public-law companies or international organizations can be the applicants and final beneficiaries.

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

Not applicable

d) Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Evaluation Criteria	Results	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount and type of collected data; • Number and types of consultation meetings and expert group meetings; • Number and categories of interested parties (e.g. experts, third-country nationals, NGO, public representatives, different national, regional and local governance representatives) taking part in consultation process; • Number of revised admission procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved awareness on admission procedures facilitating the integration; • Strengthened capacities to harmonize admission procedures and needs for integration; • Improved quality of admission procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of starting position for integration of TCNs; • Improvement of immigration and integration policy management.

e) Visibility of EC funding

Visibility of EC funding will be guaranteed using the publicity measures. These measures are used in order to inform potential final beneficiaries about the possibilities of a common support of EU and the Republic of Malta and also to inform the broad public about the role of the cooperation of EU and the Republic of Malta in giving the support as well as its results. The responsible Authority will prepare the national rules of information about the support of Integration Fund Programme and visibility of the support given. The Delegated Authority will also be involved in the process of preparing the abovementioned rules. Information and publicity is performed at two levels – the level of Integration Fund Programme and the level of projects supported by the Integration Fund. Publicity measures at the level of Integration Fund Programme are performed by the Responsible Authority. This authority presents the Integration Fund objectives, priorities, activities, results of programme implementation, guarantees the access to the multi-annual and annual programmes, etc. in various ways and means. At the level of projects the publicity measures are performed by the Delegated Authority and the final beneficiaries. The Delegated Authority plans and performs the information and publicity actions. Final beneficiaries also must perform activity of information and publicity using posters, information material, publications, announcements in the media, etc. All the publicity measures must contain the emblem of EU with reference to EU funding and the other required symbols.

f) Complimentarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

Actions supported by the Integration Fund will supplement the actions implemented by the European Refugee Fund (ERF). Considering the actions implemented by these and other EU instruments as well as the national programmes, the projects under the EIF in Malta will be selected in pursuance of avoiding double financing. The Responsible and the Delegated Authorities will seek to ensure that the support of the EIF will not duplicate the actions supported under the above-mentioned instruments and national programmes. This will be achieved by consultations in the project selection phase with other institutions administrating respective programmes, also by regular relations among these institutions as well as the establishment of the prohibition of double

EU financing in the Guidelines for applicants – activity cannot be financed by the EIF and other EC as well as national programmes at the same time, etc.

g) Financial information

Preliminary financial information is provided in the Financial Plan.

3.1.2 Action 2: Development and improvement of programmes and activities for introduction of newly arrived TCNs into the Maltese society and knowledge about Malta

a) Purpose and scope of the action

Introductory programmes and courses where third-country nationals could learn Maltese language and strengthen their knowledge about Malta are of great importance. They allow third-country nationals better to understand the Maltese society and easier adjust to it. Such introductory programmes and courses should provide an opportunity to learn the Maltese language as well as to obtain knowledge on the Maltese lifestyle.

b) Expected grant recipients

Final beneficiaries are defined according to rules established in the Council Decision 2007/435/EC and other EU Legal acts regarding implementation of the Integration Fund Programme. Final beneficiaries are public or private legal persons registered and acting in the Republic of Malta or public legal persons which registration in the Republic of Malta is not necessary according to the national legislation. Therefore the non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as the NGOs), national, regional and local authorities, non-profit organizations, private or public-law companies or international organizations can be the applicants and final beneficiaries.

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

Not applicable

d) Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Evaluation Criteria	Results	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and types of new developed and improved introductory programmes; • Number and types of organized courses; • Number and categories of TCNs taking part in the courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved knowledge of TCNs in the Maltese language, Maltese history, institutions, social and economic situation, cultural life and fundamental norms and values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of starting position for integration of TCNs; • Strengthening of understanding about the culture and values in Malta.

e) Visibility of EC funding

See Action 1

f) Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments if appropriate

See Action 1

g) Financial information

Preliminary financial information is provided in the Financial Plan.

3.1.3 Action 3: Development and improvement of flexible introductory programmes and activities allowing TCNs to work and study at the same time

a) Purpose and scope of the action

It is important to ensure that third-country nationals legally residing in Malta could not only work or learn but also take part in the activities supported by the Integration Fund. For that purpose activities and programmes together with the Education Division should address this need and establish programmes, for example, part-day courses could as well as intensive teaching modules, distance or electronic training systems and similar. Lessons can be done in the evenings to the whole family module, not simply addressing the linguistic need but also the socio-cultural and the psycho-social aspect of the whole family. Hereby more third-country nationals could have the opportunity to take part in activities of promoting the integration. This action will promote more effective participation of third-country nationals in the introductory programmes and courses improve knowledge of third-country nationals about Malta and enhance their skills for the integration (SP3). This is being requested as a specific priority as it aims to include introductory programmes for TCNs.

b) Expected grant recipients

Final beneficiaries are defined according to rules established in the Council Decision 2007/435/EC and other EU Legal acts regarding implementation of the Integration Fund Programme. Final beneficiaries are public or private legal persons registered and acting in the Republic of Malta or public legal persons which registration in the Republic of Malta is not necessary according to the national legislation. Therefore the non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as the NGOs), national, regional and local authorities, non-profit organizations, private or public-law companies or international organizations can be the applicants and final beneficiaries.

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

Not applicable

d) Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Evaluation Criteria	Results	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number and types of newly developed and improved introductory programmes;• Number and types of organized courses;• Number and categories of TCNs taking part in the courses;• Number of adjustments made in the introductory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved knowledge of TCNs on Maltese language, history of Malta,• Access to institutions,• Knowledge of social and economic situation, cultural life and fundamental norms and values;• Higher number of TCNs taking part in introductory programmes and courses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve the conditions of integration of TCNs at the initial stages of their arrival;• Strengthen the understanding of Maltese culture and values .

programmes and activities.		
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e) Visibility of EC funding

See Action 1

f) Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments if appropriate

See Action 1

g) Financial information

Preliminary financial information is provided in the Financial Plan.

3.1.4 Action 4: *Development and improvement of the programmes and activities to strengthen the capacity of the Maltese society to adapt to diversity, and be able to maintain trustful relations with TCNs as well as to strengthen the assent to integration.*

a) Purpose and scope of the action

Certain incidents and situations in Malta have demonstrated that the Maltese society is insufficiently tolerant in evaluation of third-country nationals and their presence in Malta. It is important to raise the awareness and understanding of the members of the Maltese society on the immigration and integration processes by involving them into relevant programmes and activities. It is also important that participation in common activities strengthen the trust and mutual understanding of host society and third-country nationals. Consequently, they serve to act as catalysts to strengthen the integration process. Such campaigns are especially important within the media because they tend to make an impact on the formation of public opinion towards many processes. Furthermore, assistance in the field of integration shall also be provided to support psycho-social support, counselling to individuals and families, the creation of inter-faith dialogue platforms and conflict management. To ensure the better integration of third-country nationals in society for a discussing the diversity of values and ways of life of Member States and the Third Countries must be ongoing and inclusive of the host society (SP4).

It is foreseen that such initiatives support the fight against xenophobia in particular due to the increasing influx of refugees/irregular migrants. Such initiatives shall also highlight the characteristics between refugees/irregular migrants and the TCNs.

b) Expected grant recipients

Final beneficiaries are defined according to rules established in the Council Decision 2007/435/EC and other EU Legal acts regarding implementation of the Integration Fund Programme. Final beneficiaries are public or private legal persons registered and acting in the Republic of Malta or public legal persons which registration in the Republic of Malta is not necessary according to the national legislation. Therefore the non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as the NGOs), national, regional and local authorities, non-profit organizations, private or public-law companies or international organizations can be the applicants and final beneficiaries.

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

Not applicable

d) Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Evaluation Criteria	Results	Impact
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and types of developed programmes and activities to strengthen the capacity of the Maltese society to adapt to diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved adaptability of the Maltese society; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved adaptability of the Maltese society
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e) Visibility of EC funding

See Action 1

f) Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments if appropriate

See Action 1

g) Financial information

Preliminary financial information is provided in the Financial Plan.

3.2 Action implementing Priority 2 – Development of indicators and evaluation methodologies to assess progress, adjust policies and measures and to facilitate co-ordination of comparative learning.

Integration of TCNs is a dynamic process involving competence and practice. These are of great importance. Constant comparison and control of policy trends and measures make a positive impact on the development of integration. Seeking to achieve higher efficiency, a decisive role lays with clearly defined evaluation measures. Different researches, studies, evaluation methodologies, indicators and other similar tools for monitoring and evaluation of integration process progress should be promoted in all levels of integration management. The priority is implemented by the following actions:

3.2.1 Action 5: *Performance and development of studies and researches to assess admission procedure of third-country nationals, introductory programmes and activities.*

a) Purpose and scope of the action

Seeking to find out positive and negative aspects of admission procedure and conducted programmes it is necessary to contribute to the evaluation of the admission procedure, programmes and activities by supporting interested parties, for example, NGOs, including third-country nationals organisations, as well as companies, regions or local governance institutions representative research and various studies. This action will improve the knowledge on effectiveness and benefit of admission procedures and programmes and also identify positive and negative impact on integration process. Depending on the results of these research and studies, the quality of admission procedures and carried out programmes as well as related legal acts could be improved. Research should address as a high priority the young people and women, two groups which may find it even more difficult to integrate into local society due to a greater gap in the outlook of the respective societies towards these specific groups (SP2).

b) Expected grant recipients

Final beneficiaries are defined according to rules established in the Council Decision 2007/435/EC and other EU Legal acts regarding implementation of the Integration Fund Programme. Final beneficiaries are public or private legal persons registered and acting in the Republic of Malta or public legal persons which registration in the Republic of Malta is not necessary according to the national legislation. Therefore the non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as the NGOs), national, regional and local authorities, non-profit organizations, private or public-law companies or international organizations can be the applicants and final beneficiaries.

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

Not applicable

d) Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Evaluation Criteria	Results	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and types of studies and researches conducted; • Number and types of reports and recommendations submitted; • Taking into account the recommendations, the number and types of adjustments made in admission procedures; • Number and categories of TCNs involved; • Number and categories of interested parties (e.g. experts, third-country nationals, NGOs, public representatives, representatives of various levels of national, regional and local government) taking part in consultations process; • Number and types of arranged consultation meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved knowledge on admission procedures and programmes effectiveness and benefit, identified positive and negative impact on integration process; • Improved quality of admission procedures and carried out programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of immigration and integration policy management; • Raised level of knowledge on integration process.

e) Visibility of EC funding

See Action 1

f) Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments if appropriate

See Action 1

g) Financial information

Preliminary financial information is provided in the Financial Plan.

3.2.2 Action 6: Creation and implementation of the systems dedicated to collect and analyse information on the needs of various categories of TCNs

a) Purpose and scope of the action

Seeking to improve the integration process, it is necessary to identify the needs of various categories of TCNs in the area of integration especially, with respect to women, young children, elderly people, disabled or illiterate people needs. Research could be carried out in migrant communities with the aim to find out the best way to satisfy the needs of these people as well as to create and improve various indicators and evaluation methodologies dedicated to evaluate the introductory programmes and integration policy in general also the appropriateness and adaptability to specific groups of third-country nationals and similar. This action shall improve awareness on the needs of TCNs in the area of integration, strengths and weaknesses of integration policy as well as their conformity to specific needs of TCN groups. The growing presence of TCNs, who are in some small localities changing the demographic situation, including educational systems and religious/cultural needs, is taken into consideration.

b) Expected grant recipients

Final beneficiaries are defined according to rules established in the Council Decision 2007/435/EC and other EU Legal acts regarding implementation of the Integration Fund Programme. Final beneficiaries are public or private legal persons registered and acting in the Republic of Malta or public legal persons which registration in the Republic of Malta is not necessary according to the national legislation. Therefore the non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as the NGOs), national, regional and local authorities, non-profit organizations, private or public-law companies or international organizations can be the applicants and final beneficiaries.

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

Not applicable

d) Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Evaluation Criteria	Results	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number and types of created evaluation systems, methodologies, indicators, conducted research;Number and types of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved knowledge on the strengths and weaknesses of integration policy as well as their conformity to specific needs of third-country	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improvement of immigration and integration policy management;Improved level of knowledge on integration process.

<p>collected quantitative and qualitative data;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and types of submitted reports and recommendations; • Number and categories of third-country nationals who took part in the evaluation process; • Considering the recommendations, the number and types of made corrections in admission procedures and programmes. 	<p>nationals groups;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved knowledge about the needs of third-country nationals in the area of integration; • Improved quality of measures for evaluation of integration process and integration policy. 	
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e) Visibility of EC funding

See Action 1

f) Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments if appropriate

See Action 1

g) Financial information

Preliminary financial information is provided in the Financial Plan.

3.3 Actions implementing Priority 3 – Policy capacity building, co-ordination and intercultural competence building in the Member State across the different levels and departments of government.

Considering the fact that there is no single policy on integration of third-country nationals in Malta and one single institution responsible for this activity it is important to develop the intercultural competence and cooperation of state and municipal institutions and offices as well as private entities. Capacity strengthening and raising of intercultural competence should be carried out on national, regional and local level including all associated institutions, bodies and offices providing public or private services. Also the issue of intercultural competence should be included into the employment, education and other policy areas. Seeking to ensure smooth and efficient policy of integration it is necessary to strengthen the administrative capacities of persons working for different institutions as well as to create the mechanisms that would ensure an efficient exchange of information and experience among these subjects, and similar. Priority will be implemented by the following actions:

3.3.1 Action 7: 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 Integration Fund

a) Purpose and scope of the action

Intercultural and inter-religious training is very important for policy makers and other interested parties associated with the objectives of the Integration Fund and activities carried out. These training courses are especially important for the staff working in the sectors of public services (SP5) who provide direct consultation or in any other way provide services to third-country nationals, for example, workers in the institutions or services responsible for the admission policy, recognition of qualification of third-country nationals, information supply, education and counselling. While

preparing the intercultural, inter-religious and diversity management training it is important to emphasise the needs of specific groups of third country nationals, i.e. women, youth and children, elderly people, disabled or illiterate persons. This action will improve knowledge of policy makers and other interested persons on the diversity management and intercultural competence, enhance their capacities to manage the functions they are delegated and be better versed in the formulation and implementation of integration policies and measures.

b) Expected grant recipients

Final beneficiaries are defined according to rules established in the Council Decision 2007/435/EC and other EU Legal acts regarding implementation of the Integration Fund Programme. Final beneficiaries are public or private legal persons registered and acting in the Republic of Malta or public legal persons which registration in the Republic of Malta is not necessary according to the national legislation. Therefore the non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as the NGOs), national, regional and local authorities, non-profit organizations, private or public-law companies or international organizations can be the applicants and final beneficiaries.

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

Not applicable

d) Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Evaluation Criteria	Results	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and types of organised training courses; • Number and categories of participants in the training; • Amount and types of information and material prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved knowledge on policymakers and other interested persons on diversity management and intercultural competence; • Improved knowledge on policymakers and other interested parties in specific needs of third-country nationals groups; • Enhance the capacities of policymakers and other interested parties to manage the functions they are delegated; • Improved quality of integration policy measures; • Diminishing of discrimination phenomenon; • Improved understanding that the integration is a two-way process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of immigration and integration policy management; • Improved level of knowledge on integration process.

e) Visibility of EC funding

See Action 1

f) Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments if appropriate

See Action 1

g) Financial information

Preliminary financial information is provided in the Financial Plan.

3.3.2 Action 8: Creation and improvement of the systems for cooperation, co-ordination and maintenance of relations of competent institutions and other interested parties

a) Purpose and scope of the action

To improve the effectiveness of decision making in the area of integration policy (include adoption procedures and measures to follow the developments of such policy) it is necessary to promote the cooperation of competent institutions, NGOs and other interested parties active in the field of integration and TCNs. A structured dialogue between these actors such as exchange and consultation platforms and networking should contribute towards this objective.

It is also important to monitor and evaluate the coordination of such initiatives. As well as monitor and evaluate the coordination of government institutions and mechanisms across the different government levels /sectors, that affect policy development and implementation. It is envisaged that such an approach should lead to a better admission policy, facilitate the recognition of qualification of third-country nationals, improve the quality of information provision, education and counselling. This should be achieved in cooperation with non-governmental institutions active in the field.

b) Expected grant recipients

Final beneficiaries are defined according to rules established in the Council Decision 2007/435/EC and other EU Legal acts regarding implementation of the Integration Fund Programme. Final beneficiaries are public or private legal persons registered and acting in the Republic of Malta or public legal persons which registration in the Republic of Malta is not necessary according to the national legislation. Therefore the non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as the NGOs), national, regional and local authorities, non-profit organizations, private or public-law companies or international organizations can be the applicants and final beneficiaries.

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

Not applicable

d) Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Evaluation Criteria	Results	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and types of established and improved consultation platforms, coordination networks and similar mechanisms; • Number and categories of participants; • Number of organized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened co-ordination in integration policy in different government levels and sectors; • Strengthened cooperation among different government institutions and other interested parties; • Enhanced the capacity of interested parties to manage immigration and integration policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of immigration and integration policy management; • Improved level of knowledge on integration process.

meetings; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of prepared information and material. 	measures; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened intercultural competence and capacity of policy makers and other interested parties; • Improved knowledge on immigration and integration procedures and measures. 	
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e) Visibility of EC funding

See Action 1

f) Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments if appropriate

See Action 1

g) Financial information

Preliminary financial information is provided in the Financial Plan.

3.4 Actions implementing Priority 4 - Exchange of experience, verified procedures and information in the field of integration among member states

The main objective of the priority is to support cooperation, exchange of experience and good practice among involved Member States on all levels of the integration process. The objectives of the priority shall be achieved especially via the following activities:

- Creation of networks between Member States in order to exchange the experience, verified procedures, and information within the integration process;
- Support of pilot projects in the field of enhancement of approach of migrants to services, goods, cultural and social life;
- Support of comparative research with specific impact on integration of vulnerable groups such as women, youth and children, the elderly, illiterate persons and persons with disabilities between Member States.

3.4.1 Action 9: *Creation of networks in order to exchange the experience, used procedures and information within the integration process*

a) Purpose and scope of the action

The action shall be aimed at supporting projects that promote networking of entities from Malta with entities from the EU countries thus forming the network of organizations via which the experience and knowledge from the field of third-country nationals' integration shall be transferred to the relative interested parties in Malta.

The project actions creating networks such as seminars, conferences, workshops etc. shall be supported.

Specific topics will be addressed in this area, mainly psycho-social support, counselling of individuals and families, inter-faith dialogue platforms and conflict management and the role of young people in integration. To ensure the better integration of third-country nationals in society more opportunities for continuous debate should be maintained.

b) Expected grant recipients

Grant recipients as defined according to rules established in the Council Decision 2007/435/EC and other EU Legal acts regarding implementation of the Integration Fund Programme, are public or private legal persons registered and acting in the Republic of Malta or public legal persons which registration in the Republic of Malta is not necessary according to the national legislation. Therefore non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national, regional and local authorities, non-profit organizations, private or public-law companies or international organizations can apply.

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

Not applicable

d) Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Evaluation Criteria	Results	Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of networks with other participating countries focusing on the integration process; • Exchange of best practices in the field of enhancement of approach of migrants to services, goods and cultural and social life; • Support of comparative research between participating countries with specific impact on integration of vulnerable groups in the TCN community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More exchange of information and best practices between participating countries; • More exchange on information in the research on vulnerable groups within the TCN community between participating countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More effective and innovative and credible measures and creation of policies in the field of integration of TCNs

e) Visibility of EC funding

See Action 1

f) Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments if appropriate

See Action 1

g) Financial information

Preliminary financial information is provided in the Financial Plan.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Purpose of the Technical Assistance (TA)

The purpose of the TA is to assist the Responsible Authority and the Delegated Authority effectively to implement the Integration Fund Programme. Resources for technical assistance shall be provided by the European Union Programmes Agency. The purpose of use of resources of TA are actions related to the preparation of the AP2010, with evaluation and selection of national projects and individual projects, monitoring and evaluation of implemented projects, control and audit.

Implementation of the EIF is a new activity for the Responsible Authority therefore it is necessary to ensure sufficient human and other resources. The technical assistance will finance the salary of key staff for the implementation of the programme. A part of expenses for technical and administrative assistance is related to the operational expenses such as e.g. publishing of calls and translations.

Most of the TA will be assigned to the Delegated Authority. The TA within the AP 2010 shall be used in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Decision and other EU rules and in compliance with the legal regulations of Malta. In compliance with Article 33.2 (a) and (b) of Commission Decision of 5 March 2008, the RA shall organise at least one information activity, presenting the achievements of the AP(s).

The eligible TA expenses include:

- expenditure related to the preparation, selection, appraisal, management and monitoring of actions (including computer equipment and consumables);
- expenditure related to audits and on-the-spot checks of actions or projects;
- expenditure for the preparation and translation of programming documents and evaluation reports for the needs of the Commission;
- expenditure related to the preparation, evaluation, selection, management, monitoring and evaluation of actions or projects of the annual programme;
- expenditure related to information dissemination and transparency in relation to actions;
- expenditure on the acquisition, installation and maintenance of computerised systems for the management, monitoring and evaluation of the Fund;
- expenditure on the meetings of monitoring committees and sub-committees relating to the implementation of actions (including the costs of experts);
- expenditure related to wages of permanent internal employees of the EUPA (according to rules established by EC) which shall perform the tasks related to the implementation of the AP2010 – programming, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, financial management (preliminary financial control, payments), controls and audits;
- expenditure related to external consultants who shall perform the tasks related to the preparation of the call, preparation of the management and control system as well as operating manuals – internal acts of management of the responsible, certification authority and audit authority;
- expenses for technical equipment of the competent authorities;
- expenditure for visibility – website, lectures, information and promotional materials,
- education of internal employees, participation in foreign business trips in relation to the programme.

According to the listed measures, the TA under the Annual Programme 2010 of the EIF will support:

- Organization of meetings of the Project Selection and Monitoring Committee as well as the other actions related to the activities of this committee;
- Salaries of the key staff needed for the implementation of the programme within the Delegated Authority;
- Rental of computer equipment;
- Training of applicants and final beneficiaries related to preparation, management and implementation of their activity plans;
- Audits and on-the-spot checks;
- Services of independent assessors and other experts;
- Translation of the documentation;
- Participation in meetings of the common Committee Solidarity and Management of Migration flows and other international meetings;
- Information activities and publicity measures.

Public Procurement:

All actions financed from the TA of the fund shall be in compliance with public procurement regulations.

Time schedule of the TA use:

Beginning: January 2010

End: 31 March 2013

Financial information:

Community resources	A	€62,014.41	100.00%
Public resources	B	€0	0.00%
Total public resources	C= A+ B	€62,014.41	100.00%
Private resources	D	€0	0.00%
TOTAL	E= C+ D	€62,014.41	100.00%

4.2 Expected indicators and quantified results

After the TA is given to the authorities designated to administrate the EIF, the following results are expected:

- Development and improvement of legal documentation of EIF (annual programmes, Guidelines for applicants and other documentation related to the call for applications, national rules for the submission, evaluation and selection of projects, for monitoring of project implementation, for payment for expenditure incurred by projects, for the use of TA funds, for information and visibility and other);
- Implementation of effective project and monitoring system (approximately 5 meetings of the Project Selection and Monitoring Committee);
- Implementation of effective project selection and monitoring system (approximately 5 meetings of the Project Selection and Monitoring Committee);
- Implementation of checks on the spot (depending on the number of applications submitted and the projects selected –checks performed by the Delegated and Responsible Authorities);
- Implementation of information and publicity measures (logo of the EIF in Malta, booklets, poster, pens, etc);
- Verification and assessment of applications submitted as well as the other documentation of the Integration Fund Programme (independent assessment);

Name of indicator	Target value
Number of workers fulfilling the tasks related to the system of fund management and control	1
Number of workers of the joint system of management and control	1
Number of created internet sites on the fund	1
Number of published calls for proposal of grant applications	1
Number of computer sets for workers of management and control system	2
Number of USB keys	2
Number of printers	2
Number of translation materials (annual programme 2009, progress report, final report, documentation of the management and control system)	5
Number of attended trainings related to the system and fund management	2
Number of controls in place per one project	2
Number of information meetings with grant recipients	4
Number of sessions of committee for Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows	1
Number of contracts for works with external colleague of the responsible authority	3

Number of lectures, educational activities with knowledge on the fund	3
Number of articles on the actions co-financed from the fund published in the national periodic	2

4.3 Visibility of EC funding

Technical assistance is financed 100% from the EU budget, i.e. technical assistance from national budget is not financed. Seeking to guarantee the visibility of EC financing, the established requirements will be followed. The public procurement will be organised in order to create the logo for the Integration fund Programme in Malta. It will be compulsory to mark the documentation of the Integration Fund Programme and the acquired assets with the above mentioned and other mandatory symbols.

All expenses must be justified by the verifiable supporting documents (for example, invoices, receipts, official cheques and documents justifying labour expenditures, etc) that must be directly related with technical assistance measures and documents proving the payment (for example, an official abstract of bank account expenditure voucher and other document proving the payment was made in conformity with the expenditure supporting documents).

The actions related to the visibility and informing on the programme shall be implemented in compliance with the *Plan of visibility of the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals 2010* which the RA shall adopt in the form of the internal act. These actions are planned and implemented in compliance with legal regulations of the EU. The plan of visibility of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals contains also the rules of technical assistance visibility.

The RA shall ensure the visibility via:

- the location of the EU sign on all written documents and materials which the responsible authority adopts (calls for proposal of project designs, directions, forms of grant application, written correspondence with grant applicants as well as grant recipients etc.);
- designation of all actions financed from the technical assistance with the sentence: "*Project is co-financed from the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals*";
- location of the EU sign on all technical devices purchased from the TA of the fund
- location of the EU sign and information on co-financing from the European Fund for the Integration of TCNs on all information materials, leaflets, documents etc.;
- location of the EU sign and information on the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals in the premises of the responsible authority (e.g. in entrance premises, offices etc.);
- informing participants on co-financing of the action from the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals in case of organizing conference, seminar, training.

All publications, on which the information on co-financing from the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals shall appear, shall concurrently contain the information about the fact that the publication expresses the opinions of the author and the European Commission is not responsible for its content and use.

The RA ensures:

a. Informing expected grant recipients

The RA shall select the information every year which it shall not publish due to security measures. The information for expected grant recipients relate especially to:

- the conditions of eligibility for acquisition of financing within the annual programme;
- the description of procedure and time schedule of the evaluation and selection of grant applications;
- the evaluation criteria for the project selection;
- contact data for persons which may provide information on the annual programme.

b. Informing the public on the programme and projects co-financed from the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals

The RA shall organize an information meeting after the approval of the annual programme which shall be aimed at presentation of priorities and objectives of the annual programme first week of June 2009. The approved multi-annual programme shall be placed on the internet site <http://www.eupa.org.mt> with the information on the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals on which the programme for the life cycle of the programme and all annual programmes shall be published. The site shall also contain a list of approved projects co-financed from the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals, list of grant recipients and amount of the allocated grant. The reference to the stated internet site shall be notified by the responsible authority to the Commission.

DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

**Annual Programme - Draft Financial Plan
Table 1 - Overview table**

Member State: Malta

Annual programme concerned: Year 2010

Fund: The European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals

<i>(all figures in euro)</i>	Ref. Priority	Community Contribution (a)*	Public Allocation (b)	Private Allocation (c)	TOTAL (d= a+b+c)	% EC (e=a/d)	Share of total (f=d/total d)
Action 1:	1	225,000.00	60,000.00	15,000.00	300,000.00	75.00%	43.20%
Action 2:	1	90,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	120,000.00	75.00%	17.28%
Action 3:	1	50,000.00	8,330.00	8,330.00	66,660.00	75.01%	9.60%
Action 4:	1	30,180.96	5,060.00	5,000.00	40,240.96	75.00%	5.80%
Action 5:	2	15,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00	20,000.00	75.00%	2.88%
Action 6:	2	15,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00	20,000.00	75.00%	2.88%
Action 7:	3	15,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00	20,000.00	75.00%	2.88%
Action 8:	3	15,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00	20,000.00	75.00%	2.88%
Action 9:	4	15,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00	20,000.00	75.00%	2.88%
Technical assistance		67,501.11	0.00	0.00	67,501.11	100.00%	9.72%
Other operations (2)							
TOTAL		537,682.07	108,390.00	48,330.00	694,402.07	77.43%	100.00%

(1) if appropriate

(2) if appropriate

* maximum EC allocation per action that may be awarded


Paul Zahra

AV/Permanent Secretary

Ministry for Education, Employment and Family

