EU Grant Scheme for Sustainable Tourism Projects by Enterprises

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Operational Programme I – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013
Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life
Aid Schemes part-financed by the European Union
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Co-financing: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds
Investing in your future

To date the current Scheme has had:

3 Calls → 104 beneficiaries
Total Grant Value → €7,949,182.02
Total Investment → approx. €20,000,000.00
Grant Scheme Objectives

- Co-financed by the EU’s European Regional Development Fund which aims to promote investment and correct regional imbalances

- Produces financial aid towards Malta’s tourism sector

- Envisages directing financial aid to proposed tourism projects which aim to contribute towards sustainable development of tourism in Malta and therefore strengthening Malta’s competitiveness

- Promotes Research & Innovation, use of ICT, and Environmental initiatives focusing on tourism and generating a positive impact on the performance of Malta’s tourism industry

Sustainable Tourism

The Scheme falls within the Sustainable Tourism Priority in the Operational Programme I (OPI): Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life

and therefore

provides funding only for those projects that demonstrate a significant impact on sustainable tourism
Target Beneficiaries

...who can apply?

- engaged in economic activity, irrespective of the legal form
- self-employed persons, family businesses, partnerships or associations/NGOs
- projects must constitute state aid
- main objective must be tourism
- the applicant organisation must be based in Malta
- project benefits must accrue to Malta
- self-sustaining projects an investment that will generate economic development

Target Beneficiaries

...eligible to apply ~ type/size

- Small, medium, and large enterprises
- Group of companies
- Associations/NGOs
- Start-up enterprises
  (VAT registration less than 5 years)
- Networks
  (group of enterprises working together for the purpose of the scheme)

projects with direct relevance to tourism
Small, Medium, & Large Enterprises

Enterprises are classified as Small, Medium or Large enterprises.

This differentiation is important for defining the aid intensity and for the purposes of State Aid.

Enterprises may be differentiated upon:
- Staff headcount (determined in the ETC employer employees list and the List of hours worked by part timers)
- Annual Turnover (enterprise income received during year in question)
- Balance sheet totals (value of company’s main assets)
- Shareholding

Co-financing Thresholds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enterprise Category</th>
<th>Public Co-financing</th>
<th>Private Co-financing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Enterprise</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Enterprise</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Enterprise</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the case of a network formed by enterprises of different sizes, the co-financing rate will be that of the largest enterprise.
## Total Eligible Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects submitted by type of enterprise</th>
<th>Minimum Threshold</th>
<th>Maximum Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects submitted by SMEs (one or more companies)</td>
<td>€15 000</td>
<td>€400 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects submitted by Large enterprises (one or more companies)</td>
<td>€58 000</td>
<td>€650 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprises falling under DeMinimis Regulation (per company)</td>
<td>€15 000</td>
<td>€375 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects submitted by networks</td>
<td>€15 000</td>
<td>€1 000 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Intervention Areas

Project Activities must fall under one or more of the proposed Intervention Areas:

- Product Upgrade & Investment in Equipment
- Investment in Environmentally friendly measures
- Investment in Information Communication Technology
- Investment in Entrepreneurship
- Investment in Marketing
Call 4

- Deadline: 18th March 2013 (till 15:00hrs)
- No quotations are required to be submitted at application stage
- Each activity must not amount to more than €129,000.00
- Where required MEPA permits are to be submitted at application stage
- Projects are to be concluded by Q3 2014