

Table 3: Reporting table on national Europe 2020 targets

Description of the measures taken and information on their qualitative impact		
Progress on Implementation	List of measures and their state of play that were implemented in response to the commitment	The estimated impacts of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)
National 2020 headline targets		
National 2020 employment target (70%)	<p>Childcare Centres</p> <p>Details can be found under CSR 3. Please refer to Section 3 of the NRP document.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	It is envisaged that childcare centres will continue creating a continuum of early intervention and educational services and help towards the employability of the parents.
	<p>Afternoon School Programmes in the Community</p> <p>Details on these programmes can be found under CSR 3. Please refer to Section 3 of the NRP document</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The service aims to provide an after-school care service within school structures to bridge the gap between day school and regular working hours of parents in employment.</p> <p>Since opening the centres, uptake has continued to increase gradually in all centres.</p>
	<p>INT Scheme</p> <p>The INT Scheme was established to promote an enterprise culture and to assist persons interested in starting their own business.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	Participants who make it to the last phase of the course, should go on to receive a grant. This will contribute to the desired impact of activating people and having more entrepreneurs including females.
	<p>Strengthening Employability Prospects</p> <p>The Employment and Training corporation operates the following programmes aimed at Strengthening Employability Prospects:</p> <p>Employment Aid Programme: Following a very successful uptake, on 17th May 2012, the Employment Training Corporation (ETC) had pre-announced that this scheme was temporarily suspended as the budget allocated for this project has been committed.</p> <p>In December 2012, the Managing Authority approved the additional funding of € 4 million which brought the allocated budget of the EAP to € 12.2 million. In addition, an extension to this Programme up to December 2014 has been approved by the Managing Authority. As at 17th March 2014, from 2,648 valid claims (which relate to 2,516 valid grants), 2,135 for the value of €10.1 million have been paid.</p> <p>In 2013 the EAP has been extended till September 2015 with an additional funding of € 1,962,500. In October 2013 EAP applications have re-opened for Gozo undertakings and Maltese undertakings with a base in Gozo. The allocated budget has been committed with 357 grant agreements signed starting from January 2014 till end December 2014.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Training Aid Framework: The Training Aid Framework (TAF) was launched in February 2009 with the aim of financially supporting undertakings that invest in training their employees.</p> <p>The scheme was originally planned to end in June 2013. However, the funds allocated for TAF, amounting to € 8,851,620, were fully allocated by mid 2012 leading to the early closure of the scheme.</p> <p>In view of the closure of scheme and the large volumes of applications submitted, in February 2013 the</p>	<p>Employment Aid Programme: Increase job opportunities for disadvantaged groups and disabled persons in the labour market thereby reducing economic inactivity, providing the necessary work experience and enhancing the employability of the target groups concerned.</p> <p>Training Aid Framework: The TAF is expected to help increase productivity and enhance adaptability. It seeks to increase and/or improve the knowledge and skills of persons employed with non-public entities that are engaged in a private economic activity regardless of their legal form.</p> <p>A total of 3,871 applications were processed and their respective Grant Agreements were</p>

<p>Employment and Training Corporation requested an extension on the implementation period till the 31st December 2014.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>signed. Throughout the implementation of the scheme a number of de-commitments took place which further reduced this figure to 3,077 valid grants by end of December 2013.</p>
<p>Measures to Curtail Abuse of the Unemployment Register and Informal Work</p> <p>Initiatives adopted under this measure include the increase of penalty period for persons who fail to participate in an activation measure without just cause for three or more times and the increase in the frequency of registration as a jobseeker's duration of unemployment increases.</p> <p>An increase in the frequency of registration as a jobseeker's duration of unemployment increases will serve as a deterrent to those who may be abusing the system. It also provides added services to jobseekers as the latter can communicate directly with their employment advisor. The previous process of procuring a registration system based on face recognition through a direct order was abandoned by the ETC Board of Directors. A new process has been started to purchase a fingerprint based registration system through a call for tenders which were issued and adjudicated. However, only one bidder was compliant and hence to ensure transparency, a new call for tenders will be issued. Currently, the tender is being re-drafted by the Procurement Section within ETC and will be reviewed by the technical expert. It is envisaged that the call will be issued by end of June 2014 following approval from the Board of Directors and senior management. These initiatives are coupled by inspections carried out by the Law Compliance Unit within ETC and BFID.</p> <p>Furthermore a new finger based registration system will be introduced.</p> <p>These initiatives are coupled by inspections carried out by the Law Compliance Unit within ETC and BFID. Details on the work carried out by both the Law Compliance Unit within ETC and BFID can be found under CSR 1. Please refer to Section 3 of the NRP document.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Between January and December 2013, a total of 4,514 inspections were carried out by ETC during which 2,422 law infringements were identified, and therefore a success rate of 54%). Between January and December 2013, the Corporation registered 249 strike-offs from its employment register.</p> <p>During 2013, the Benefit Fraud and Investigation Department conducted through its Inspectorate 2,135 on-site inspections. Following investigations 1,040 cases were concluded and resulted in the suspension of a total of 838 social benefits. The estimated annual savings for 2013 totalled to € 3,391,478.</p>
<p>Supported and Sheltered Employment Training for Disadvantaged Groups including RDPs</p> <p>The aim of this measure is to further increase the participants' confidence and practical job-specific skills through 'work exposure opportunities' thus enhancing the financial independence of disadvantaged persons and prevents social exclusion and marginalisation.</p> <p>The sheltered employment training activity on the other hand aims to provide persons with disability that cannot work in an open labour market environment, to provide them with employability skills in a sheltered one.</p> <p>A call for an expression of interest for Learning Support Assistant, Occupational Therapist and Occupational/Clinical Psychologists was issued on 5 Sunday newspapers on the 13th of January 2013. Furthermore a call for Job Coaching services was issued on 14th April 2013</p> <p>On the 17th November 2013 an advert for Support Workers was issued on all 7 Sunday Newspapers (paid by ETC and not ESF funds)</p> <p>On the 24th December 2013 a call for applications for 4 Employment Support Workers and 1 Clerk was published on the ETC's website.</p> <p>In September 2013 a decision was made to join the activities carried by ESF 3.113 ESPD (Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities) with those under ESF 3.114 ESEP (Employment in the Social Economy Programme). The savings from the 2 projects amounted to € 1,757,004, part of which is to be used towards a new initiative as Sheltered Employment Training.</p> <p>A new Grand Agreement for ESF 3.113 titled "The Supported and Sheltered Employment Training for Disadvantaged Groups including RDPs" (SSET) has been signed on the 14th March 2014.</p> <p>The Amalgamated Project focuses on 3 main areas:</p>	<p>The new activity of sheltered employment training under this project is going to be launched in May 2014 where a group of around 150 persons with disability are expected to start attending for employment training in a number of employment sectors.</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage employers to recruit and retain in employment persons with disability by providing specific services such as LSAs / Job Coaches / Personal Assistance Allowances / Support Workers (Former ESF 3.113 ESPD) 2. Incentivise employers from the Voluntary Sector to recruit persons from disadvantaged categories including persons with disability (Former ESF 3.114 ESEP) 3. Provide persons with disability who cannot work in an open labour market environment, with employability skills through employment training activities in a sheltered environment (New activities in ESF 3.113 SSET) <p>Status: On Track</p>	
<p>Pensioners working part-time for the government will pay 15% income tax</p> <p>All the necessary tasks related to this measure are now completed. Legal Notice 320 of 2012 was published on 28 September 2012.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>A minimal increase in the number of pensioners working part-time for the Government was registered.</p>
<p>Incentives to Attract More Inactive Women to the Labour Force</p> <p><i>New Income Tax Computation</i></p> <p>This fiscal measure was first introduced through Act V of 2012 enacted on 14 May 2012. Only parents supporting children who are not gainfully employed up to 18 years of age and extended to 21 years of age if the children are still in tertiary education were eligible. In the Budget for 2014, Government decided to go a step further and extend this measure to parents with children under 23 who are still in tertiary education.</p> <p>Furthermore, Government also proposed an adjustment to the 0% tax bracket for parents. The new bracket, applicable from 1st January 2014 was extended from € 9,300 to € 9,800.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>In 2013, being the year during which the parent rates were first applied, 14,583 females availed themselves of the parent rates computation.</p> <p>The extension of the measure to parents with children under 23 who are still in tertiary education will not only ensure more disposable income in the parents' pocket but also encourage children to stay in education. Furthermore, the adjustment in the 0% tax bracket for parents will result in more income at the parents' disposal. In fact, parents earning more than € 9,300 may benefit from a maximum increase in disposable income of € 75 per year.</p> <p>Although the changes in relation to the parent computation were announced in the Budget for 2014, however they will be retroactive as from 1st January 2013. Hence, the effectiveness of this extended measure will be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2014 when the relative tax returns for the year 2013 are processed.</p>
<p>Childcare Centres</p> <p>Four childcare centres are being/have been constructed. These are one in Ħal Far, Kordin, Mosta and Xewkija. The status of the Ħal Far childcare centre is completed while Kordin, Xewkija and Mosta childcare centres are being constructed.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p>	<p>These childcare centres will accommodate approximately 125 children in total.</p>
<p>Enhancing Employability through training</p> <p>The programme is available to all actively employed, inactive, early school leavers, and registered unemployed individuals who are eligible to work. It will be sub-divided into four main components: Training Design, Short Courses, Traineeships, and a Training Subsidy Scheme.</p> <p>The programme also provides the opportunity for men and women who have been absent from the formal economy for a relatively long period of time to regain their confidence and develop on their skills through a series of training programmes that will ultimately facilitate their re-entry into employment.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Through training programmes and the provision of assistance to employed persons to secure and advance their position within the labour market, registered unemployed or inactive individuals will be integrated into the labour market.</p> <p>The EET Programme is aimed at training approximately 8,080 persons.</p>
<p>Development of a new Child and Youth Services Centre</p> <p>Construction works at ground floor and first floor levels have been completed.</p> <p>In January 2014, the scope of the project was expanded to include an additional floor housing Conference and Meeting Facilities for use by Government and the Voluntary Sector.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Child services centre in Gozo</p> <p>Youth services centre in Gozo</p> <p>Small conference and meeting facilities in Gozo</p>

	<p>National Apprenticeship Scheme</p> <p>A new Legal Notice has been drafted which aims at regulating the National Apprenticeship Scheme. Discussions with stakeholders on the new Legal framework will follow.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Through this reform, it is expected that the Apprenticeship scheme will become more relevant. The scheme will be offering new apprenticeships at more competence levels from MQF Level 2 up to MQF level 5 to meet labour market needs. Moreover, it will be launching apprenticeships in conjunction with other training institutions, including private ones, tapping new areas of expertise.</p> <p>This initiative is intended to increase employability among youths.</p>
	<p>Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme</p> <p>Young people face particular problems when starting their own businesses.</p> <p>Therefore, by end of Q1 2014, MCAST had finalised a draft business plan which looks at the development of a centre for entrepreneurship. The draft plan will be concluded by Q2 2014 following internal discussion.</p> <p>The budget for this measure is also currently under discussion but it should be finalised by the end of Q1 2014. Indeed, the implementation of this activity is pending the finalisation of the transfer of the line vote on this item from ETC to MCAST.</p> <p>Status: On Track (pending the approval as per outline provided above)</p>	<p>It is envisaged that through this activity young people will be empowered with the optimal skills to operate a successful commercial endeavour thus generating positive social and economic spill-over effects.</p>
	<p>Embark for Life Programme</p> <p>Embark for Life was launched in July 2013. Various meetings with different stakeholders identified and till the end of January 2014, the service received around 75 referrals of young people who required support in their educational needs and/or to seek employment. A number of young people are already in employment whilst others will soon start receiving support in various areas such as O` levels, basic education, hairdressing, ECDL and food handling. A call for tutors has been issued and in the coming days, these young people will receive one-to-one and/or small group tuition.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>It is envisaged that more young people will be referred to the service in the coming months whilst more emphasis will be placed on helping these young people improve their education level and find employment.</p>
	<p>Development of a Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy including an Action Plan for Malta 2013-2018</p> <p>A successful Action Plan involves working in collaboration with stakeholders providing educational services to young people to consider entrepreneurship as a means of self employment and eventually for the creation of larger economic activities. The strategy will encompass the entrepreneurial direction provided by the Ministry of Education and Employment and direct stakeholders. Meetings are underway and the strategy is being drafted</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The measure will encourage more young people to delve into self employment which eventually can evolve in larger undertakings.</p>
<p>National 2020 R&D target (2% of GDP)</p>	<p>The New National Research and Innovation Strategy 2014-2020</p> <p>The draft R&I Strategy 2020 was issued for public consultation between September-October 2013 and an updated final version has been prepared. The Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet in February 2014.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>The completion of this measure has resulted in the setting up of a strategic framework and priorities for investment over the coming years. The new strategy will be guiding investment (human, infrastructural, etc.) in this area. In particular, the different investments are expected to stimulate further the level of R&D investment.</p>
	<p>The Setting Up of a Life Sciences Centre/Park</p> <p>The Life Sciences Centre, also referred to as BioMalta Campus, will seek to attract foreign direct investment into research, technological development and innovation in the bio-technology and life sciences sectors. The centre will also support the development of the local industrial community helping them to grow and internationalise.</p> <p>On 5th September 2011, works started on site with the building expected to be complete in 2014.</p> <p>Project cost is estimated at circa € 30M of which around € 20M will be co-financed through ERDF funds.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>Malta's National R&I Fund 2013</p>	<p>The Campus is expected to build upon Malta's long-standing tradition in the pharmaceutical industry which has high grown potential.</p> <p>The impact indicators of the project show a 0.44% increase in RTDI expenditure as a percentage of GDP with 138 direct jobs created by the end of the programme period in 2015. Over a 20 year period total employment should reach 688.</p>

	<p>The National R&I Fund includes both the National R&I Programme (re-named to the Technology Development Programme) and the Commercialisation Programme.</p> <p>The R&I Programme for 2013 was launched in January 2013. 42 lightweight applications for project proposals were received until March 2013 and following further short-listing 17 detailed proposals were submitted. Following evaluations, 9 projects have been shortlisted for funding.</p> <p>Status: Completed for 2013, but ongoing overall.</p> <p>The National Commercialisation Programme was re-launched as the Commercialisation Voucher Programme in October 2013.</p> <p>This programme is offering support with the aim of assisting inventors, being researchers or micro enterprises and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to assess the commercial and market potential of their ideas, be it technological and non-technological. A budget of €200,000 has been allocated to this programme.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The R&I Programme has a direct impact on the national R&I expenditure (GERD) since it funds R&D performed by both the higher education and the business enterprise sector. Assuming that awarding of the projects shortlisted through the 2013 calls happens imminently, the foreseen disbursement of funds may be visualised as follows: € 865k in 2014, € 306k in 2015, € 30k in 2016 and € 300k as performance retention in 2017.</p> <p>While the Commercialisation Voucher programme will not contribute directly to Malta's R&D expenditure target, it will seek to make best use of R&D investments by helping to determine the commercialisation potential of proposed innovative solutions, thus ensuring that before actually undertaking any research and development, the inventor would already be aware of the possibility of protecting the idea through intellectual property as well as gain awareness about the market potential and the economic wealth it can generate for the good of society at large. This programme has only recently been launched and thus, at present it is very difficult to quantify its impacts.</p>
	<p>Setting-up and development of the National Interactive Science Centre</p> <p>The National Interactive Science Centre (NISC) will be developed at the Villa Bighi Complex and will encompass an array of diverse hands-on science exhibits in an engaging setting. The buildings and the outdoor areas will become a hub for science communication and a means to entice students to take-up science subjects at school as well as bring science closer to the general public.</p> <p>The NISC will also serve as a research infrastructure by offering a research base, set up as a live lab, where research could be carried out in the fields of Social Science and Humanities</p> <p>The total budget for the whole project amounts to €25,850,000 (incl. VAT) and is co-financed by the ERDF.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The National Interactive Science Centre will aspire to cultivate a culture of scientific curiosity and creativity by igniting a passion for questioning, investigation and discovery through encouraging our staff and visitors to explore, think, imagine and appreciate</p> <p>It will act as a medium to instil an active interest in science, research and innovation in youth and encourage them to pursue a career in science and technology.</p>
	<p>Centre to Strengthen Research on Business and the Self-employed</p> <p>This project kicked off in 2012 and will end in 2014. The budget allocated is of € 1,331,530.</p> <p>The Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation (CEBI) was set up in May 2013 as a centre of excellence in entrepreneurship at the University of Malta (UoM), complementing the existing endeavours in the area. CEBI will catalyse the development of a vibrant, indigenous, knowledge-intensive entrepreneurial sector targeting science, technology, engineering, media, and the creative industries in Malta.</p> <p>As an academic centre, CEBI trains students and staff in the science and art of Entrepreneurship using a participant-centred, hands-on approach, by leveraging entrepreneurship expertise at the University of Malta as well as seasoned local and foreign entrepreneurs. CEBI also plans to catalyze the creation of start-up, seed and venture capital funds to launch and grow a new breed of successful, knowledge-intensive ventures.</p> <p>Since November 2013, all Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship activities have moved to housed in the former Faculty of ICT building, a central location within the University that has been newly refurbished for this purpose. The site accommodates the offices of the KTO and CEBI as well as the soon to be launched University Business Incubator.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>This measure will help to introduce the concept of entrepreneurship at the University of Malta and also provide the necessary teaching programmes through which the University infrastructure can support start-up businesses with the intent of then facilitating the move to the Science Park.</p>
	<p>Internationalisation scoping exercise</p> <p>The aim of this measure was to identify opportunities for Maltese researchers to be engaged in international cooperation opportunities. The exercise started in October 2012 and was completed at the end of 2013. The information gathered through this exercise is presently being evaluated as part of the preparation of the Action Plan for Internationalisation.</p>	<p>This measure will provide input to better guide Malta's participation in international cooperation endeavours in R&I.</p>

	Status: Completed	
<p><i>Malta's Targets for Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A maximum increase of greenhouse gas emissions not falling within the scope of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme of 5% by 2020 (compared to 2005 levels particularly emissions from transport, (mainly road transport), industrial gases, waste, agriculture and fuel combustion in industry and commercial and residential buildings). - A commitment to achieve by 2020 a share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption of 10%. - A commitment to achieve by 2020 a target of 10% of energy consumed in all forms of transport from renewable sources. 	<p>Energy Efficiency in Transport</p> <p>Details on this measure can be found under CSR 4. Please refer to Section 3 of the NRP document.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The new Bus fleet is contributing to a reduction in emissions through less polluting engines but also through higher capacity vehicles which reduce the number of trips required.</p> <p>The introduction of complementary transport and incentives for the take up of electric cars should also contribute to an increase in transport energy efficiency.</p>
	<p>Implementation of Malta's National Strategy for Policy and Abatement Measures relating to the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p> <p>Details on this measure can be found under CSR 4. Please refer to Section 3 of the NRP document.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>The various initiatives under this measure will result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emission Saving in Ghg CO2-eq estimate for 2020 is as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delimara Power Station + Interconnector (1523.61) - Promotion of the use of Biodiesel (30.09) - Transport Reform (38.89) - Modernisation of agriculture holdings + Nitrates Action Programme (32.63) - Gas Management at Non-hazardous Landfills (33.99)
	<p>Promotion of uptake of RES and building envelope insulation</p> <p>This measure aims to promote the uptake of solar water heaters and roof insulation and double glazing by issuing financial grants to households to encourage the purchase of new solar water heaters (maximum € 400 per system installed) and the purchase of roof insulation and double glazing (maximum € 1000 per dwelling).</p> <p>This measure was launched in the Budget for 2012 and 2013 and as announced in the budget for 2014, it is now being extended.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p>	<p>The total number of SWH has now reached 8,238, whereas the number of applications authorised for roof insulation and double glazing as on 27th March 2014 was 881.</p> <p>Also, during the last 12 months, 8,750 have received a grant offer to install a domestic PV system with an estimated total capacity of 22MWp.</p>
	<p>Switching of fuel from Liquid Fuel Oils to Natural Gas</p> <p>Enemalta (the state-owned energy utility responsible for providing electricity to the Maltese Islands) has entered into a power purchase agreement (PPA) and a Gas-supply Agreement (GSA) with a private bidder. This consortium will be tasked with building, owning, operating and maintaining (a) a new LNG delivery, storage, re-gasification and natural gas supply facility; and (b) a new natural gas-fired 215 MW combined cycle gas turbine electricity generation plant together with all necessary infrastructure connections to Enemalta's electricity distribution network, at Delimara. The existing plants will be also converted into gas.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Once implemented, the higher plant efficiency together with the lower carbon emission factor of methane are expected to lead to significant cuts in GHG emissions and lower utility bills.</p>
	<p>Feed in Tariffs for PVs not supported through other funding</p> <p>Feed-in tariffs for PVs not supported through other funding were available throughout the period 01/01/13 - 30/09/2013. A new set of feed-in tariffs are expected to be published during Q2/2014.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p>	<p>The PV capacity registered for a feed-in tariff as at Q1/2014 stands at 19.4MWp. This does not include domestic systems and PV installations which benefited from a grant. Applicants have up to 1 year to commission the PV system.</p>
	<p>Encouraging Smaller and Cleaner Modes of Transportation</p> <p>This measure was enacted through the amendments to the Maltese legislation (the Motor Vehicles Registration and Licensing Act) that were enacted from 1 January 2012 which built upon the environmental concepts that had been put forward in 2009.</p> <p>These amendments brought the concept of Euro Standard as a component in the computation of the</p>	<p>The objective of this measure is to encourage newer, more efficient, and less polluting vehicles. In this regard, when comparing the average CO₂ emissions and length of the vehicles registered during the period May-December 2012 with those registered during the period May-December 2013, one can notice an increase from 126.7 g/km in CO₂ emissions to 127.8 g/km and an increase in length from 3976mm to 4050mm.</p>

	<p>registration tax for private vehicles (previously applied only to commercial vehicles) while also introducing higher registration tax rates on vehicles that are Euro 1 to 3 and older.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>The percentage of new M1 motor vehicles registered during the period October – December 2013 decreased to an average of 46% of total registrations during this period, from an average of 48% in April-September 2013.</p>
	<p>Scrappage Scheme (2013)</p> <p>The aim of this scheme was to encourage owners of old cars to shift to new vehicles that meet preset criteria with regard to environmental considerations.</p> <p>The maximum period of validity for this scheme was twelve months starting from 1st January 2013 or the first 1,000 eligible applicants as per allocated budget of € 500,000.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>According to data from Transport Malta, the total number of beneficiaries of this scheme during the period January to December 2013 was 465.</p> <p>During the first two months of 2014, although the application period was terminated in 2013, there were still some beneficiaries of this scheme. In fact the total number of beneficiaries during the period January to February 2014 amounted to 30.</p> <p>The scheme achieved its environmental objectives compared to a similar scheme that was available last year. In fact, the average CO₂ emissions of the new vehicles purchased under this scheme is identical to those registered last year of 117g/km. In the case of length of new vehicles purchased, the average was 3981mm, slightly longer than the average for new vehicles purchased in the previous year under such scheme. Previously the average length was 3894mm. However this slight increase is in line with the trend of longer vehicles being produced by vehicle manufacturers.</p>
	<p>New Scheme for PV Panel Installations in Households</p> <p>A new scheme to promote domestic PVs was launched in May 2013. This provided grants of up to 50% of the capital cost (capped at Euro2500). The scheme was fully subscribed by the end of Q1/2014.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>It is estimated that circa 22MWp of PV systems shall be installed as a result of this scheme, generating around 33.7GWh/year.</p>
	<p>Biofuels Substitution Obligation</p> <p>The biofuel substitution obligation requires that importers and wholesalers of petrol and diesel must place a pre-determined amount of biofuel on the market, which during 2013 had to reach 3.5% (by energy content). This is currently achieved by using biodiesel produced from waste cooking oil.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Measure ensures that country remains on track to meet its 2020 RES-T target and contributes towards meeting Malta's RES interim targets.</p>
<p>National early school leaving target (Reducing school drop-out rates to 10% by 2020)</p> <p>National target for tertiary education (Increasing the share of 30-34 years old having completed tertiary or equivalent education to 33% by 2020)</p>	<p>Offering more Opportunities for Participation in Vocational Education</p> <p><i>Introduction of vocational subjects in secondary schools</i></p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p><i>Extension of vocational subjects at post-secondary level of education in institutions which are dedicated to vocational education and training</i></p> <p>MCAST</p> <p>The principal aims of ESF 1.36 project were those of enhancing the professional development of academic and administrative staff at MCAST and of introducing 19 Vocational Degrees. The latter objective has already been fully accomplished with the last batch of eleven degrees being offered as from September 2011. In September 2011, Engineering students had the opportunity to choose between completing their vocational degree studies after their top-up year by June 2012, and be awarded a general BSc (Hons) or extending their vocational degree studies by an additional year (till June 2013) and be awarded a B.Eng (Hons) Degree.</p> <p>As a result of enhancing MCAST's capacity, MCAST lecturers are delivering the Vocational Degree Programmes.</p> <p>Furthermore, an additional number of short courses for MCAST staff have been implemented. This project has been concluded in Q4 2013.</p>	<p><i>Introduction of vocational subjects in secondary schools</i></p> <p>This measure will set the basis toward reaching the long term objective, namely, the development of a VET qualification delivery model, suitable for Malta.</p> <p><i>Extension of vocational subjects at post-secondary level of education in institutions which are dedicated to vocational education and training</i></p> <p>MCAST</p> <p>The embedded learning system provided students with the possibility to gain the skills necessary to continue their studies. Results obtained were significant with a retention rate of 70% for scholastic year 2010-2012 coupled with excellent results in the key skills. Within this context, it is pertinent to add that MCAST is currently implementing an EU co-funded project entitled 'Inclusion for Employment' with the aim of reviewing the curricula of the Pathway to Independent Living Programme and 48 courses at Level 1-3 to facilitate the progression of vulnerable students to higher level vocational programmes and ultimately employment. As a result a number of courses at Levels 1 and 2 are being designed/redesigned through the Embedded Learning methodology. Indeed, the tender that focuses on this designing/redesigning endeavour, learning resources and packs is currently being implemented</p>

<p>Status: Completed</p> <p><i>ITS</i></p> <p><i>Pre-Employment Scheme</i></p> <p>In 2007, the Pre-Employment Scheme was introduced.</p> <p>This scheme, was intended to increase either the number of students joining ITS or the number of employees in the food service and/or housekeeping operations sections.</p> <p>To further promote such scheme, ITS conducted various awareness talks re vocational education and career opportunities in the tourism and the hospitality sector. The students were secondary school students and they were given courses in food and beverage service and housekeeping.</p> <p>This scheme ended in 2012 because the BTEC course was introduced in secondary schools instead of it.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>As a result of the training opportunities provided within the context of ESF 1.36, project participants have enhanced their employability. This activity has ultimately assisted MCAST in the creation of a better prepared workforce that meets Malta's needs, particularly in the VET sector. This project is in its concluding phase and as a result of its activities more than 2165 qualifications or certificates have been obtained by students and staff members (includes repeats since many staff members have obtained more than one qualification or certificate).</p> <p><i>ITS</i></p> <p>The Pre-Employment Scheme and the Foundation Certificate Hospitality Trades Course were introduced to further provide quality learning that leads to excellence in the tourism industry, with a view to enable more individuals to participate in tourism studies, including the low-skilled and unskilled. Both initiatives were implemented from national funds.</p> <p>28 students registered for the pre-employment scheme and 21 students were successful in concluding the learning and hands-on experience.</p>	
<p>Introducing Lifelong Learning into the Community through a Pilot Out-Reach Programme</p> <p>During 2013, the Directorate for Lifelong Learning (DLLL) and the Department for Local Government (DLG) continued to collaborate together on the scheme called 'Lifelong Learning in the Community' which was first launched in 2010. Besides the Adult Literacy (Maltese & English) and Numeracy (Maths) courses hosted by local councils, the DLLL offered other courses amongst which: Spanish, Italian, French, German as well as English and Maltese as a Foreign Language.</p> <p>Twenty two (22) local councils entered this scheme and offered one or more subjects mentioned above to their respective residents.</p> <p>Besides courses offered at the Local Councils, the DLLL offers lifelong learning courses to a number of organisations, public entities, enterprises and NGOs amongst which, ACCESS (Valletta, Qawra and Birgu), Farsons, Methode, HSBC Call Centre, Caritas (Dar San't Anna), FES (Youth.Inc.), FITA, NCW, YWCA, Paolo Freire Institute, SVDP, Agenzija SAPPOR, the Malta Downs Syndrome Association and St Jeanne Antide Foundation.</p> <p>The total number of participants reached 2,153, an increase of 96% on the previous year.</p> <p>Professional Staff Development, Training and Quality Assurance for Adult Educators in the Community</p> <p>In order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the teaching personnel within the DLLL, during 2013 a number of in-service training and staff development sessions were conducted.</p> <p>The training for adult educators focused on the Andragogy, Science Courses: teaching and learning practices, the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and its impact on the adult learning sector, the drafting of course descriptions and the assessment procedures of the learning outcomes for new subjects (MQF and VET).</p> <p>The National Implementation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning</p> <p>The DLLL has been entrusted to implement the EU Agenda for Adult Learning in Malta. Taking into account the specific circumstances within each Member State, and in accordance with national priorities.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Introducing Lifelong Learning into the Community through a Pilot Out-Reach Programme</p> <p>During 2013, the Directorate for Lifelong Learning (DLLL) and the Department for Local Government (DLG) continued to collaborate together on the scheme called 'Lifelong Learning in the Community' which was first launched in 2010. Besides the Adult Literacy (Maltese & English) and Numeracy (Maths) courses hosted by local councils, the DLLL offered other courses amongst which: Spanish, Italian, French, German as well as English and Maltese as a Foreign Language.</p> <p>Twenty two (22) local councils entered this scheme and offered one or more subjects mentioned above to their respective residents.</p> <p>Besides courses offered at the Local Councils, the DLLL offers lifelong learning courses to a number of organisations, public entities, enterprises and NGOs amongst which, ACCESS (Valletta, Qawra and Birgu), Farsons, Methode, HSBC Call Centre, Caritas (Dar San't Anna), FES (Youth.Inc.), FITA, NCW, YWCA, Paolo Freire Institute, SVDP, Agenzija SAPPOR, the Malta Downs Syndrome Association and St Jeanne Antide Foundation.</p> <p>The total number of participants reached 2,153, an increase of 96% on the previous year.</p> <p>Professional Staff Development, Training and Quality Assurance for Adult Educators in the Community</p> <p>In order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the teaching personnel within the DLLL, during 2013 a number of in-service training and staff development sessions were conducted.</p> <p>The training for adult educators focused on the Andragogy, Science Courses: teaching and learning practices, the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and its impact on the adult learning sector, the drafting of course descriptions and the assessment procedures of the learning outcomes for new subjects (MQF and VET).</p> <p>The National Implementation of the European Agenda for Adult Learning</p> <p>The DLLL has been entrusted to implement the EU Agenda for Adult Learning in Malta. Taking into account the specific circumstances within each Member State, and in accordance with national priorities.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>This measure will continue to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A different experience to previous learning paths in the education of particular adult learners. - The adequate level and type of learning (whether general or vocational). - The appropriate style of learning (tailor-made to the needs and strengths of individual adult learners). - The most convenient place for learning, close to one's place of residence. - Increasing the quality of learning to adults.
<p>Making VET Education More Relevant and Attractive</p> <p>The aim of this project is that of conducting a substantial upgrading exercise within the context of vocational</p>		<p>MCAST's offerings will become more attractive to a larger cohort. As a result, the project will</p>

	<p>education between Levels 4 and 5. While these courses have very often fulfilled an important <i>ad hoc</i> role they are no longer sufficient to meet the increased need for learning</p> <p>The principal project milestones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The launching and management of the Training Subsidy Scheme MCAST (TSSM). <p>A number of scholarships have been awarded and their implementation is well underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The re-design and re-formulation for accreditation purposes of existing courses. <p>The tender in relation this milestone has been awarded and its implementation is currently ongoing. Moreover, the Expression of Interest for the engagement of Local VET Experts for this scheme was published in February 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The design of new courses and accreditation of the same. <p>The tender in relation to this milestone has been awarded and its implementation is currently ongoing. Moreover, the Expression of Interest for the engagement of Local VET Experts for this scheme was published in February 2013 and is currently being implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The implementation of a new tender for the redesign of more courses. <p>The tender in relation to the new design/re-design activity was published in November 2013 and has been awarded on the 25th February 2014. The contract is currently awaiting the signatures of the concerned parties.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>improve the quality of VET to make it more economically relevant and attract more students into further and higher education.</p>
	<p>Get Qualified</p> <p>This scheme has been extended.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>During 2013, 876 applications were approved with the value of tax credits amounting to € 3.75M.</p>
	<p>New Scholarship Scheme – Master It!</p> <p>Government has earmarked € 3.5 million from ESF 2007-2013 programme for a new scholarship scheme “Master it!” which was launched on 30 April, 2013. Nine priority areas of study were identified to encourage specialisation where it is needed during the first Call, 503 applications were submitted. 330 Scholarships at Masters level (EQF 7) were awarded. The total fund for these scholarships amounted to € 2.7 million.</p> <p>A second Call was launched on 1 November, 2013. 182 applications were submitted. 134 scholarships at Masters Level (EQF 7) were awarded. Thus, a total of 464 scholarships were awarded at Masters Level.</p> <p>The scholarships were awarded according to the following priority areas:</p> <p>Creative Industries: 73 Environment: 54 Educational Services: 90 Financial Services: 88 High End Manufacturing: 28 High Quality Tourism: 18 ICT: 30 Life Sciences: 73 Transport and Advanced Logistics: 10</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>The key objectives of the scheme are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist people to pursue further levels of academic research; • Improve the quality and relevance of the education system; • Reduce skills mismatches particularly within the priority economic sectors; • Support further research in science and technology; and • Increase the capacity and level of research, innovation and development activity in Malta.
<p>National poverty target (To lift around 6,560 people out of risk of</p>	<p>Combating Child Poverty</p> <p>This measure consists of two initiatives: one is the provision of training to lone parents, and the other is the</p>	<p>Research will give a better understanding of the challenges faced by these households and</p>

poverty and exclusion)	<p>change in the provision of benefits which are to be implemented by the Employment and Training Corporation (ETC) in conjunction with the input of the Department of Social Security (DSS). As it stands both DSS and ETC are already taking an active part; the latter in providing training opportunities through the Enhancing Employability through Training Programme and the former in continuously reviewing social security entitlements. A new measure was announced in the Budget 2014, 'Helping Single Parents to find Employment' whereby single parents who are on social assistance and who choose to enhance their employability prospects by undergoing intensive training or full-time education, will be given credit, ranging from € 200 per annum for vocational basic training to € 1,000 per annum for full-time education. Parents may also benefit from free childcare if needed.</p> <p>A research proposal has been drafted by the Centre for Family Studies at the University of Malta. The Centre for Family Studies is now awaiting ethics approval from the University Research Ethics Committee as per normal procedure. The actual research is expected to be finalised by March 2014.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	enable policy makers to devise the appropriate strategies to deal with such challenges. The resulting future policies will aim to reduce the percentage of lone parents households that are at risk of poverty which in 2010 stood at 56%.
	<p>Pensions Reform</p> <p>Details on the said measure can be found under CSR 2. Please refer to Section 3 of the NRP Document.</p>	
	<p>Supplementary Allowance</p> <p>Proposals to improve the system in order to assist pensioners aged over 65 years, and who are at risk of poverty were drawn up and submitted for political and financial approval.</p> <p>In the Budget for 2013, Government has proposed that persons over 65 years of age and whose household income falls under the national at-risk-of-poverty level, will be given an increase of € 100 per annum in their Supplementary Allowance rate.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>22% of the 65+ cohort of the population are considered at risk of poverty, providing for additional financial assistance should contribute in reducing this percentage.</p> <p>Data shows that 1349 single persons and 63 married couples benefitted from this measure during 2013.</p>
	<p>Strengthening Support Services to Jobless Households</p> <p>Various projects are being planned and implemented, targeting mostly women, young people and children – these projects offer informal training of social skills, which are necessary in everyday life, but also extremely useful in job searching (where adults are concerned), and help young people and children integrate better. Such projects include women's groups in each community providing skills training, including budgeting skills, parenting skills; Literacy skills for children (with the aid of FES when possible); summer recreational / educational activities (children – e.g. Klabbsajf (now Kidspoint) and Sajf Flimkien.</p> <p>Work with pre-teens and teens – providing space for young people to socialise, use their creativity and gain skills in a safe and informal setting.</p> <p>The Cottonera team is working on project to reach out to male members of the community, particularly those receiving benefits and/or seeking a job.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	Through these projects, residents are receiving skills training through a friendly and informal environment ; this helps them increase their worth, help them to take control of certain situations in their lives (e.g. intra familial communication), to be more active in their community, and even have healthy ways of seeing leisure and recreation (strong element of prevention).
	<p>Training for Average Wage Earners</p> <p>The initiative follows the Training Allowance for Minimum Wage Earners and is targeted towards employees who earn less than the national average wage of € 300 per week from their full-time or part-time work. It aims to provide a grant to low wage earners when they participate in further training through which they can develop their skills and thus improve their job and career prospects. (<i>The training allowance is that of € 25 per week</i>).</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	Encouraging average wage earners to engage in training and improve their skills can contribute to a better trained workforce and allow such persons to seek better employment.
	<p>€ 300 Grant per annum to pensioners over 80 who live independently in their own home</p> <p>In the 2012 Budget, Government announced a senior citizen grant which is payable to all elderly persons 80 years and over who are still living in the community. Those persons who were 80 years and older in March 2012 received the full payment of € 300 whilst those persons reaching 80 years of age after March 2012</p>	The first payments of this grant were issued in March 2012. During 2012, a total of 13,385 persons benefitted from this grant.

	<p>received a pro-rata payment which covers a payment for the period between their 80th birthday and the end of the year.</p> <p>The payment of this grant will also be paid in 2013 where it will also be extended to persons aged 78 and 79 years.</p> <p>With effect from January 2014 this grant was extended to persons who reach 75 years.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p>	<p>During 2013 a total of 18,159 persons received this grant.</p>
	<p>Income tax deduction for fees paid in respect of residency services in private community homes for the disabled or respite centres</p> <p>This measure came into force as of 1st January 2013 by provision 22 of Act III of 2013. It involves a deduction from income of up to a maximum of € 2,500 in the equivalent of fees paid by persons with disability to reside in private homes or respite centres.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p>	<p>The impact of this measure can only be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2014 when the relative tax returns for the year 2013 are processed.</p>
	<p>Subsidised Rental Schemes – Rent Subsidy in Private Rented Residences</p> <p>This is a scheme which provides subsidies to tenants on rents paid for their ordinary residence leased from the private sector.</p> <p>This scheme has been revised and changed from Scheme R to Rent Subsidy in Private Rented Residences in March 2012. This scheme is still means tested but a few conditions have been altered to support the beneficiaries in a more holistic way.</p> <p>The budget allocated for 2014 is being set to € 970,000 in view of the increasing demand on this scheme.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>There are 1,216 applicants currently benefiting from this scheme. In 2014, the Housing Authority received another 121 requests of which they have to be means tested therefore a few will drop.</p> <p>In 2013, the HA paid € 567,884 on scheme R and € 280,524 on RSS. Between January and February 2014 the HA paid € 164,005.</p>
	<p>Service Pensions</p> <p>With effect from January 2014 the amount of service pension being ignored from the service pension during the assessment of a social security pension has increased from € 1,266 to € 1,466.</p> <p>Status: This is an ongoing measure and is on track.</p>	<p>Circa 5,650 pensioners have been positively affected through this measure.</p>
	<p>Measure to assist the Spouses of Residents in State Financed Residential Services</p> <p>During 2013, work started so that the apportionment of pension between pensioner who is a resident in a state financed institution and his spouse who still resides at home is amended from 40/60 to 30/70 so that the amount paid to the spouse is not less than the single rate of the Old-Age Non-Contributory Pension.</p> <p>Status: This measure has been implemented and is ongoing.</p>	<p>Spouses of Residents in State Financed Residential Services will have more income at their disposal.</p>
	<p>Regeneration and Maintenance of Housing Estates</p> <p>This project carries out embellishment works in the surrounding areas of Government Housing Estates and maintenance works in these blocks' common parts. During the past couple of years, the Housing Authority worked with a number of Local Councils for maintenance works of the common parts in a project which was spread over a period of six years. Meanwhile, a new project is being initiated where the Housing Authority will work together with Local Councils and the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure to carry out catch up repairs and embellishment works to upgrade housing estates.</p> <p>The budget allocated for 2014 is of € 655,000.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>These projects are intended to promote community regeneration and the fight against poverty. Consequently, they will continue to strengthen and improve the environment of our families, children and elderly, by providing a safe and clean environment. It also helps to create a mentality where the citizen feels more integrated in the block and also in the decision making with its responsibilities and benefits, creating a positive social effect.</p> <p>To date, there are 130 blocks completed, 2 blocks having works underway, 8 blocks had their tender issued by their respective Local Councils and 3 other blocks still waiting to start the process.</p>
	<p>Schemes to support home adaptation works - (A) Schemes for Persons with Disability</p> <p>This scheme provides financial aid and technical assistance to persons with disability to carry out the</p>	<p>This measure aspires to improve the social inclusion prospects of individuals by encouraging independent living for disabled persons.</p>

	<p>necessary adaptations to their place of residence.</p> <p>In March 2012 this scheme changed the name from Scheme L to Scheme for Persons with Disability. The conditions were also revised and grants were raised to reflect applicants' demands.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>In 2013, HA paid € 121,64.00 on scheme L and € 244,798 on the Scheme for Persons with Disability. In 2014, 29 new applications were received and the amount of € 39,544 has already been paid under this scheme in 2014.</p>
	<p>Schemes to support home adaptation works - (B) Schemes for Repairs and Improvements</p> <p>The Housing Authority is continuously seeking ways how to mitigate the effects of several bureaucratic procedures which hinder the progress of this service, in order to be more efficient. In fact, during the last half of the previous year, the amount of cases which were tackled was five times more than the amount addressed in the first six months of the year.</p> <p>In view of an increase in demand, the maximum amount of grant that an applicant can benefit from in schemes for adaptation works was increased by € 3,000. Besides, in October 2013, this grant was made available to a new category of tenants, who before could not benefit. Also, the grant on certain items /works was also increased to reflect a higher percentage of the actual cost being paid by applicants. The subsidy given under these schemes are not intended to cover the full cost of works carried out or the rent paid, as an assistance to support low income earners.</p> <p>The schemes to support home adaptation works at the HA used to fall under two titles – Scheme I and Scheme A, however, in March 2012 conditions were revised and the schemes were gathered under one title.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>This scheme is designed to allow those who cannot afford to pay for repairs and maintenance for their residences. This assistance helps to render premises habitable and up to an acceptable standard.</p> <p>In 2013 the HA paid € 96,164 for scheme I and €166,543 for Scheme ADP. In 2014, 38 new applications were received and the amount of € 71,961 has already been paid under this scheme in 2014.</p>
	<p>Residential Home for Youth</p> <p>Various discussions were held with NGOs to try to establish residential facilities for adolescent girls and boys who do not fit into the currently available structures. In the case of adolescent girls, the Good Shepherd Sisters had indicated their intention to establish such a facility but opted out at the start of 2014. This necessitated the identification of alternative premises from where this type of service could be offered, a process which was undertaken at the beginning of 2014.</p> <p>Regarding the required residential facility for adolescent boys, negotiations with Fondazzjoni Suret il-Bniedem started for the NGO to start operating this type of service with the support of Aġenzija Appoġġ.</p> <p>Status: (facility for adolescent girls) Delayed Status: (facility for adolescent boys) on track.</p>	<p>Once the agreements are in place, the adolescent home for girls will accommodate 4 adolescents on a full-time basis and 2 emergency beds.</p> <p>Once an agreement is reached the residential facility for adolescent boys is envisaged to offer 4 residential places with 2 beds for emergencies.</p>
	<p>Independent Living</p> <p>The main objective of this measure is to provide for an independent environment which will sustain a person's ability to live as independently as possible, either in their own home or in accommodation with carers on site.</p> <p>The Housing Authority has budgeted € 60,000 for 2014.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>In 2013, the Housing Authority effected payments that amounted to € 47,995.95 and leased 2 flats and a garage and soil area to various NGOs.</p>
	<p>Expansion of Fostering Services to Gozo</p> <p>In March, 2014, the first support group for foster carers took place</p> <p>The Service Manager (SM) and Service Area Leader (SAL) of the Fostering Service also held a meeting with the Marketing team and Senior Manager regarding an initial plan for a marketing campaign in Gozo.</p> <p>Around April, an ongoing training session is also planned for the foster carers, as well as an initial training session planned for May/June.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p>	<p>Support groups being held for the foster carers in Gozo for the first time, means that foster carers will feel even more supported in discussing and sharing issues they face in the foster placements that they have. These support groups will also contribute to their ongoing development and attributes as foster carers.</p> <p>With the marketing campaign's focus on Gozo as well, it is envisaged that more potential foster carers will be attracted to take up fostering.</p>

New/updated commitments in relation to the 2020 targets (per target)

<p>Employment Target</p>	<p>Free Childcare Centres</p> <p>As from 2014, families who are in-work will benefit from free childcare. This initiative will be financed by Government through a public private partnership with a total budget of € 3,800,000.</p> <p>Free childcare is going to start from 1st April 2014. It will be offered to all those who are in work or education. Almost all of the private providers will be joining the Public Private Partnership initiative. The Department for Educational Services is distributing the application forms to the private centres to start registering eligible children.</p> <p>Government will pay the childcare centre a uniform rate of € 3.00 per hour per child availing of the free childcare scheme in 2014 and 2015. The rate will go up to € 3.05 per hour in 2016.</p>	<p>Encourage Maltese women to enter the labour market or continue working while their children are being taken care of free of charge.</p>
	<p>Breakfast Club</p> <p>The Breakfast Club is intended to provide care for children before the schools' official opening hours, from 7.00am till 8.30a.m. This initiative is open to every school in Malta and Gozo. The Breakfast Club has a budget of € 3.6 million for the next 5 years and will start in April 2014.</p> <p>Parents whom their children are attending Kindergarten till Year 6, were already informed through a circular letter. Currently, out of a total of approximately 16,000 children, there are about 1,750 children that have applied to participate in this measure. This initiative will be implemented by the Foundation of Educational Services (FES) and the Directorate for Educational Services (DES). FES will be supervising the initiative by also helping school teachers during shortfall. DES will be buying the necessary breakfast provisions.</p>	<p>Parents will have the possibility to drop off their children at school before they go to work having the peace of mind that their children are being taken care of. This incentive will allow further flexibility to working parents and may also encourage more women to either return or enter into the labour market.</p>
	<p>Extension in tax deduction for parents sending their children to private childcare centres</p> <p>An increase in the tax deduction from € 1,300 to € 2,000 for parents who pay fees for childcare services in respect of their children. This measure came into force as of 1st January 2014.</p>	<p>The impact of this measure can only be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2015 when the relative tax returns for the year 2014 are processed.</p>
	<p>Youth Guarantee</p> <p>Malta's youth guarantee will primarily focus on individual empowerment. Together with ongoing initiatives being undertaken such as vocational training, apprenticeships and remunerated working experience, an ESF project will be launched for young persons who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs). NEETs will be individually profiled by experts and will receive thirty hours of direct contact with a youth worker and another ninety hours of training intervention that will consist of motivation and behaviour, labour market orientation sessions (including guidance on employment), CV writing, interview skills, and communication skills.</p> <p>The Youth Guarantee Scheme, with a total budget of € 2,272,855.83 (including VAT) will be launched in April 2014 and will run till March 2015.</p>	<p>The scope of this measure is to increase the number of youth who continue to study after the compulsory age and to improve their capabilities through relevant training. It is envisaged that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at the end of the Youth Guarantee process, 244 NEETs resident in Malta and 36 NEETs resident in Gozo will have improved their skills and competences listed in the Europass CV; - after 6 months from completion of the scheme, 50% of those youths that will not continue with further study or be in employment and that were not registered with ETC at the time of application, will register for unemployment. - after 12 months from completion of the scheme, 97 young people resident in Malta and 15 young people resident in Gozo will be in employment or further study.
	<p>Setting up a Skills Bank</p> <p>The setting up of a Skills Bank will contain information about skills possessed by youths and will facilitate policy formulation as well as matching between job vacancies and young jobseekers. ETC will start keeping information collected from the University of Malta, MCAST, ITS and other public and private educational institutions, which will aim to gradually build a Skills Bank.</p> <p>A meeting was set up with the MEDE to formulate the building of this system. ETC is still in the process of this set up, and will be meeting educational providers.</p>	<p>Through this initiative, it is expected that the ETC will have a comprehensive picture of the future needs of the employers and the skills of young people. The ultimate aim should be to guide young people to areas which are of labour market relevance.</p>

	<p>Employability Index</p> <p>The purpose of the index is to find out the type of jobs that students (University, MCAST and ITS) are taking up once they finish their studies.</p> <p>With respect to labour market developments the index can provide useful information such as the employability probability of a student after a specified time period, the probability of underemployment and the average income.</p> <p>The measure will be launched in Q2 2014 with the final outcome to be published by the end of 2014.</p>	The index should indicate the degree of mismatching.
	<p>Reduction in income tax for unemployed women who are over 40 years of age</p> <p>Principle breadwinners whose wives are over forty years of age and have been inactive for more than five years but are going to start employment earning a tax-exempt wage, will benefit from reductions in income tax as the income of the wives will not be considered when applying the joint tax computation. This measure came into force as of 1st January 2014.</p>	The impact of this measure can only be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2015 when the relative tax returns for the year 2014 are processed.
	<p>Providing training and/or employment to employees who are between 45 and 65 years of age</p> <p>Government will offer a tax deduction of € 5,800 as an incentive to employers to hire persons within this age group who have been unemployed for the previous three years. The deduction applies for the first two years of employment.</p> <p>On the other hand, companies will benefit from a tax deduction on their income or corporate tax of 50% of the training (up to a maximum of € 400) for training undertaken by a training provider officially accredited by the Malta Qualifications Council upon the provision of a VAT receipt.</p> <p>This measure came into force as of 1st January 2014.</p>	The impact of this measure can only be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2015 when the relative tax returns for the year 2014 are processed.
	<p>Helping single parents to enrol into education</p> <p>From preliminary estimates, the cost for the current financial year is not expected to go beyond € 50,000.</p> <p>Through this measure, single parents on social assistance who choose to enhance their employability prospects by undergoing intensive training or full-time education will be given credit, ranging from € 200 per annum for vocational basic training to € 1,000 per annum for full-time education. Parents may also benefit from free childcare if needed.</p>	Encourage single-mothers to further their education.
	<p>Long-Term Unemployed persons will be awarded a percentage of Social Assistance benefits for 3 years once employed</p> <p>The Social Assistance benefits are aimed to encourage unemployed persons to seek employment and not rely on unemployment assistance for their living and join the labour market. It also encourages employers to offer more jobs to the unemployed and be paid 25% of the benefit for 3 years. The training fund will be used to train these people to retain their jobs.</p>	This measure is expected to have positive effects on active labour market participation.
	<p>Self-employment Transition Scheme</p> <p>The 15% tax rate in respect of part-time income is being extended to apply on the first € 10,000 for part-time employment and the first € 12,000 for part-time self-employment. This measure came into force in January 2014.</p>	The impact of this measure can only be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2015 when the relative tax returns for the year 2014 are processed.
	<p>Tax deduction for entrepreneurs who offer apprenticeships placements</p> <p>An incentive for entrepreneurs in the form of a tax deduction of € 1,200 for every apprenticeship placement they accept (capped at 800 placements). This measure came into force as of 1st January 2014.</p>	The impact of this measure can only be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2015 when the relative tax returns for the year 2014 are processed.
	<p>Tax deduction for entrepreneurs who offer work placements</p> <p>An incentive for entrepreneurs in the form of a tax deduction of € 600 for every work placement they accept (capped at 400 placements). This measure came into force as of 1st January 2014.</p>	The impact of this measure can only be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2015 when the relative tax returns for the year 2014 are processed.
Research and Development	<p>Setup an ICT Innovation Accelerator</p> <p>Government intends to tap the potential of ICT driven R&D with the setup of an ICT innovation accelerator in</p>	Contribute towards attaining Malta's target of 2% value added as a percentage of national

	<p>2014.</p> <p>The Facility will act as a hub to synergise the effort of various parties aimed towards ICT-themed Research and Technological Development (R&D), idea-generation, incubation and open-innovation. The day to day operation of this facility will involve marketing activities, networking, mentorship, training and also the provision of logistical and brokerage support.</p> <p>The Accelerator will also serve as a show case for locally nurtured innovations and locally developed ICT products and services.</p>	GDP invested in R&D.
	<p>Action Plan for R&I</p> <p>MCST, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, will be developing a rolling R&I Action Plan identifying measures, timelines, owners and budgets to achieve the objectives and targets specified in the National R&I Strategy 2020.</p>	This measure will identify the tactical implementation aspects of the National R&I Strategy 2020 over the shorter-term. In so doing, it will seek to bring different players together to ensure better coordination and avoidance of overlaps and gaps.
	<p>Evaluation of Malta's participation in the 7th Framework Programme</p> <p>The aim of this measure is to better understand how Malta fared in FP7 participation, to identify areas where further or better support is needed to inform and better tailor MCST's role as National Contact Organisation for Horizon 2020.</p>	This measure will inform both the R&I Action Plan as well as improve MCST's National Contact Organisation role.
	<p>Submission of a proposal for a Knowledge and Innovation Community on healthy living and active ageing</p> <p>This measure involves the submission of a proposal for a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) that addresses the societal challenge of a progressively ageing population in Europe and beyond. This proposal is being developed by an international consortium to which Malta is a partner.</p>	This measure would increase Malta's visibility and improve prospects for international R&I cooperation in a thematic area of priority for Malta as identified in Malta's National R&I Strategy 2020.
Energy	<p>Electric Car Incentive Scheme (2014)</p> <p>This measure is designed to encourage the replacement of internal combustion engine vehicles with battery electric vehicles.</p>	It is expected that this measure will reduce local air pollution and reliance on fossil fuels.
	<p>Autogas conversion scheme (2014)</p> <p>This measure aims to incentivise vehicle owners to convert their vehicle to autogas.</p>	It is expected that this measure will reduce local air pollution.
	<p>Scrappage Scheme (2014)</p> <p>This measure aims to incentivise the replacement of older private vehicles with new, smaller and more efficient ones.</p>	It is expected that this measure will reduce local air pollution and reliance on fossil fuels.
	<p>Reduction in registration tax on motorcycles</p> <p>Motorcycles that are registered on or after the 5th November 2013 having an engine capacity exceeding 250cc will have their registration tax reduced by 25%. Motorcycles with an engine capacity not exceeding 250cc will remain exempt from registration tax.</p>	<p>The measure is being proposed in the background of Government policy to incentivise the purchase of a smaller and cleaner fleet of vehicles, while also taking into account that increase in the purchase of motorcycles rather than M1 vehicles would result in less congestion and better parking possibilities.</p> <p>According to data from Transport Malta, in 2013 there were 534 motor cycles which were registered, an increase by 50% over the previous year. This increase was registered after the Budget 2013 measure of removing registration tax on motorcycles with an engine capacity of up to 250cc and a decrease in registration tax rates (on average by 25%) for the other engine capacity categories.</p> <p>Thus the Government of Malta is again trying to incentivise the purchase of motorcycles as an alternative mode of transport.</p>
	<p>Increase in Annual Circulation Licence fees</p> <p>As from 1st January 2014, the Annual Circulation Licence Fees for Category M1 vehicles (passenger carrying vehicles with up to eight seats besides the driver's seat) will increase by € 10 annually except for those vehicles that were registered after 1st January 2009 and have CO₂ emissions of not more than 100g/km.</p>	This is intended to increase Government revenue by circa € 2.5 million while also incentivising people to buy M1 vehicles with CO ₂ emissions of not more than 100g/km.
	<p>Renovating Public Buildings to Increase Energy Efficiency and Reduce GHG (Phase I)</p> <p>Buildings consume up to 40% of energy generated. The project involves resource efficiency retro-fitting in a</p>	Once implemented, project is expected to lead to 1,200MWh in energy savings and a

	<p>number of government buildings.</p> <p>Project funding approved and tendering documentation is being prepared.</p>	<p>reduction of 1,152 tonnes of CO₂ annually.</p>
	<p>Retrofitting Road and Street Lighting by Smart Lighting</p> <p>The project involves the retrofitting of street lighting to energy efficient LED lighting and the adoption of Smart Lighting technology (dimming and lighting network management)</p> <p>Project funding approved and shall now proceed to the tendering stage.</p>	<p>Project is expected to lead to 1,888MWh in energy savings and a reduction of 1,663 tonnes of CO₂ annually.</p>
Education	<p>Pilot project for tablets in primary schools for teachers and students</p> <p>In the process of implementing the 'One Tablet Per Child' initiative, a pilot project is currently being held to assess the introduction of tablet computing devices in all primary schools. The scope of the pilot project is to carry out an assessment on a small scale in view of the national implementation of the 'One Tablet Per Child' initiative as from 2015-2016. The pilot project will involve 22 classes in State, Church and Independent Schools in Malta and Gozo containing a total of around 400 students including students with special needs.</p>	<p>The research and evaluation done during the pilot project will lead to the selection of the best hardware/software tablet solution to introduce in the Primary Classroom. It will also reveal the possible challenges that educators, education managers and educational services providers will face in the national implementation and suggest ways to meet and overcome these challenges.</p>
	<p>Alternative Learning Programme</p> <p>In this regard, the alternative learning programme (ALP) has been designed to offer students who are exiting the compulsory school cycle without formal qualifications an alternative pathway to access accredited learning pathways in various VET areas. These courses will run between January and September of this year and will be aiming to engage about 245 Form 5 students who are not going to sit for any formal examinations in May 2014. These students will also be offered on-the-job experience.</p> <p>Participants in the ALP are expected to obtain one or more partial qualifications at MQF level 1 and 2 while a number of participants may also obtain a full MQF level 1 qualification. Participating students would be expected to continue with their education after the summer recess in a full-time higher education institution or in other lifelong learning institutions on a part-time basis.</p> <p>The programme will be fully funded from national funds which will amount to € 614,000.</p>	<p>It is envisaged that a good number of these students will obtain certification accredited at MQF level 1 in one or more subjects and will eventually be able to further their education beyond compulsory schooling.</p>
	<p>Design of Learning Outcomes Framework</p> <p>The Learning Outcomes Framework for the six main learning areas identified in the National Curriculum Framework document will be developed through an international tender and in collaboration with local curriculum development experts. Learning and Assessment programmes for all the subjects in compulsory education will also be developed through this work. The tender has been published and will be evaluated in Q2 2014. Work is expected to be completed by 2015.</p>	<p>This will help in achieving a paradigm shift away from a prescriptive curriculum towards a framework based on learning outcomes which allows for internal flexibility and attractiveness to lifelong learning. It will also facilitate a move away from standalone subjects to learning areas that form the entitlement for all learners towards inclusivity, citizenship and employability.</p>
	<p>Higher priority to Mathematics, Science, ICT</p> <p>This measure involves: Review of primary level learning programmes in mathematics and science; increase in the frequency of science lessons in primary schools; introduction of digital science in primary sector; organisation of science popularisation events at both primary and secondary levels; training of primary class teachers in both mathematics, science and digital science teaching & learning; participation in the Little Scientists Project in collaboration with MCST (including training of team of peripatetic teachers).</p>	<p>This measure aims to decrease the percentage of students considered as low ability in the areas of science and mathematics; enhance exposure to science and digital science at primary level; enhance scientific literacy among the young student generation in secondary level; increase the number of students studying science subjects at secondary and post-secondary levels.</p>
	<p>Stipends for Repeaters</p> <p>Students are encouraged to further their education. Whoever has a problem should be encouraged and not discouraged. For this reason, students who are repeating one year in their course are receiving their stipend. This measure came into effect on 1st January 2014.</p>	<p>In 2014, a total number of 1,187 students are benefitting from this measure which is estimated at € 760,000.</p>
	<p>New Courses on Aviation</p> <p>Malta Enterprise is co-operating with MCAST to provide new courses on the repair and maintenance of airplanes. This will enable students to acquire the necessary skills and training to work in the aviation industry. This measure will help to create more high value-added jobs in the Maltese economy.</p> <p>The following courses are planned to take place during the year 2014, subject to conclusion of funding for equipment:</p> <p>Composite Repairs; Piston Engines;</p>	<p>It is envisaged that through the implementation of these courses, Malta shall be consolidating further the aviation maintenance industry. This will result in an even more dynamic industry that can generate employment and economic well-being.</p>

	<p>Aircraft Operations Management.</p> <p>Providing stipends for students undertaking veterinary courses</p> <p>In order to encourage more students to undertake a veterinary career, Government, is providing additional financial support. The new rate for applicants under the MGSS-UG now stands at € 3,698.81 per annum (plus a one-time grant of € 698.81). This rate applies to both new applicants under the MGSS-UG scheme as from October 2013 and past awardees who are still in training as from 2014.</p> <p>Since the VET course is not offered by a local institution, all these students are benefitting from this measure through the MGSS Undergraduate scheme.</p>	<p>The VET course is not offered by a local institution as yet. Since such courses have very high tuition fees and are carried abroad, many students find it difficult to cope with the expenses involved. Through this measure, more students are likely to opt to undergo studies in this area and pursue a career in this field.</p> <p>For the year 2014, this measure has an estimated budget of € 121,200.</p>
	<p>Further and Higher Education Quality Assurance Framework</p> <p>According to the recently introduced Legal Notice 296 of 2012, Further and Higher Education (Licensing, Accreditation and Quality Assurance) Regulations, NCFHE 'shall establish a Quality Assurance Committee to carry out its licensing, accreditation and quality assurance functions. It also needs to adopt appropriate documentation, introduce relevant policies and to maintain a register of national qualifications and of officially recognised foreign qualifications provided in Malta.</p> <p>Providers are legally bound to have an internal quality assurance process that guarantees due process, transparency, fulfilment of standards and compliance. The external quality assurance process, also legally mandatory as per Art. 37 of the same Legal Notice, is based on a review of the internal quality assurance process of the institution.</p> <p>During external quality audits the Commission, amongst others, has to examine the effectiveness of the internal quality assurance processes used by the provider, including an examination of the system's structure, the documentation it produces and the evaluations of quality conducted by the provider; examines the compliance by providers with obligations to license holders; uses appropriate investigatory mechanisms to ensure financial probity, and where the provider is a body corporate, ensures that the members of the body corporate, the legal representative and the persons occupying a headship position are fit and proper persons to establish a provider of Further and Higher education and deliver Further and Higher education programmes.</p>	<p>Impact is expected both in terms of CPD development of QA professionals within the education sector through the setting up of Net-QAPE, and regular meeting thereof. Circa 30 trained Net-QAPE members for MQF-pegged QA CPD Award. A manual of EQA procedures and tools As well as dedicated software will be developed.</p> <p>The three local public higher institutions will have staff trained for IQA and EQA and the first 3 pilot internal quality assurance audits (IQAs) and the 3 pilot external quality assurance audits (EQAs).</p> <p>On a longer term, the QA framework will create a culture of quality within education provision in Malta leading in turn to more value added in the obtaining and holding of Maltese qualifications.</p>
<p>POVERTY</p>	<p>A Holistic Strategy for Social Security Reform</p> <p>To submit to Government recommendations for the drawing up of such a strategy in order to reform the social security provision and delivery in Malta.</p> <p>Eliminating Tax on transfer "causa mortis" for disabled persons</p> <p>This measure is related to the elimination of tax on transfer causa mortis for property inherited by disabled persons. This measure only applies if disabled person/s live/s in the same property. This measure only applies to the first residence.</p> <p>The said measure came into force as of 1st January 2014.</p> <p>Full pension for employed widows</p> <p>Widows will continue to receive their full pension, irrespective if they have children (including those aged 16 to 21) or not, and the amount earned from their employment.</p> <p>Pensioners whose pension does not exceed the national minimum wage will not be taxable</p> <p>Pensioners will be receiving their pension in full without any tax deductions.</p> <p>Tax-exempt COLA on minimum wage and pensions which are currently not taxed</p> <p>Persons on the minimum wage who receive the COLA will be exempt from paying tax on the increase. This will apply equally to pensioners who at present are not paying tax.</p> <p>This measure came into force as of 1st January 2014.</p> <p>Grant of € 300 to elderly persons over the age of 75 years</p> <p>The € 300 grant is given to those people over the age of 75 years old and who are still living in the</p>	<p>The reform will result in a more efficient and effective Social Security provision and delivery.</p> <p>The impact of this measure can only be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2015 when the relative tax returns for the year 2014 are processed.</p> <p>More widows will be encouraged to seek employment with higher wages and salaries.</p> <p>This will lead to an increase in the net amount of pension.</p> <p>The impact of this measure can only be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2015 when the relative tax returns for the year 2014 are processed.</p> <p>This will encourage elderly people over the age of 75 to continue to live in their homes and in</p>

community.	the community.
Additional € 200 waiving off from Service Pension The current rate of service pension not taken into consideration is €1,266, it will therefore increase to €1,466 and thus pensioners will benefit from a higher pension rate.	Approximately 5,500 pensioners will be entitled to a higher rate of state contributory pension.
Introduction of Social Support Workers within Aġenzija Appoġġ To support Social Workers in tasks not requiring social work intervention or to accompany social workers where and when required to have more manageable caseloads and increase contact with service users.	The increase in workforce will help through the increase in referrals and ease ongoing burden on workers and waiting lists which ultimately affect the quality and effectiveness of the service users.
Extension of the Home Help Service Scheme The home help service is a domiciliary service which supports older persons or persons with a disability to continue living in the community.	This scheme will address the current waiting lists due to the high demand for this service.
Increase the number of clients attending Day Centres by 200 Day Centres provide respite and support to persons with intellectual disabilities. These persons with intellectual disabilities are provided with structured programmes focusing on independent living, therapeutic methods and teaching employability skills.	There are currently 200 persons waiting to be housed in these day centres. Through this measure these persons will be given the possibility attend these day centres.
Financial support to first time buyers A one-time exemption from the payment of duty on the first € 150,000 of the price of immovable property will be granted to first time buyers acquiring immovable property in 2014. This measure started on 1 st January 2014 and is expected to run up till December 2014.	The impact of this measure can only be effectively gauged in the last quarter of 2014.
CURE programme to upgrade housing estates The Catch Up Repairs and Embellishment programme is aimed at upgrading the housing estates in collaboration with the Local Councils and the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure.	This measure will enhance the current upkeep programme and widen it to other estates and surrounding areas.