

Table 4: Reporting on main reform plans for the next 12 months

Table 4. Overview of main reform commitments for the 12 months		
Main (new or updated) commitments in the NRP for the next 12 months	Foreseen main measures and indication on whether they are CSR relevant	The estimated impacts of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)
<i>Euro-plus pact commitments</i>		
<i>Euro-Plus Pact commitments</i>	<p>Justice Reform</p> <p>Following the submission of the Final Report of the Justice Reform Commission, the following commitments are being implemented:</p> <p>1. Legal Amendments:</p> <p>a) The drafting of the necessary Constitutional and legal amendments has already started;</p> <p>b) the amendments to primary law is envisaged to be finalised (i.e. enacted) by end of June 2014; and</p> <p>c) the Constitutional amendments (mostly requiring 2/3 majority of the House of Representatives) is envisaged to be in place by the end of 2014. Talks are already underway between the Government and the Opposition on the constitutional amendments and agreement on these measures is likely.</p> <p>2. Justice Reform Implementation Committee (JuRIC):</p> <p>Following the seminar for internal stakeholders held on 12 March 2014, a Justice Reform Implementation Committee (JuRIC) has been set up. JuRIC is composed of senior officials from the key stakeholder organisations to work on the different areas of the reform process (eg. IT Sector, Court Administration, Judiciary, etc) with a view to monitor the progress and iron out any difficulties that may crop from time to time. JuRIC is spearheaded by the Directorate General (Strategy & Support – Justice) which coordinates also with other ministries, departments and entities in facilitation of the reform process.</p> <p>3. Measures to be implemented during 2014</p> <p>Around 180 reform measures are earmarked for implementation during 2014.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is relevant to CSR 5, in particular in order to improve the overall efficiency of the judicial system.</p>	<p>1. Legal Amendments – Expected impacts</p> <p>The expected impacts of the legal amendments (effected in the Constitution, primary and subsidiary legislation) will give the legal basis for those measures that so require. Most judicial process measures fall into this category.</p> <p>2. JuRIC</p> <p>The setting up of 4 JuRIC sub-committees to deal with different areas of the Justice reform implementation would facilitate the implementation process, in particular through maximisation of resources and the participation of experts in the field.</p> <p>JuRIC would, therefore, facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the justice reform measures.</p> <p>3. Measures to be implemented during 2014</p> <p>An exercise was carried out outlining those measures that can be implemented with the available resources. It is, therefore, envisaged that during 2014, 40% of the reform measures will be implemented (approx. 180 measures).</p>
	<p>Green Economy Action Plan</p> <p>A core group involving the main stakeholders and an inter-ministerial task force has been set up.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>The present thinking is to combine the strategy for green jobs with the measure to prepare and launch the Green Economy Action Plan so as to identify strategic objectives and a list of actions with which to incentivise and/or lead their attainment.</p>
	<p>Enhancing Institutional Capacity and Efficient Public Administration (OPM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning initiatives for public employees such as: training in various modes for the respective position levels, sponsorships to follow academic qualifications, sponsorships to attend seminars and conferences abroad - Ongoing Accreditation of courses organised within the public administration through the Centre for Research, Development and Training (CDRT) – On track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More knowledgeable and motivated public employees through such learning-related initiatives will surely impact positively the quality and delivery of services to the public Accreditation ensures that content and relevance of the training courses on offer are to expected high standards Such collaboration provides further expert resources for the undertaking of these roles,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced collaboration with academic institutions including the University of Malta especially in the areas of training and research – On track • Strengthening of public administration policy related research through the CDRT – On track • Introducing the next phase of public administration reform, through legal, organisational and procedural consideration and rationalisation – On track • Upgrading and enhancing service delivery to citizens mainly by: expanding the administration of the government's online customer care system; championing new better regulation and simplification measures; and commencing a new and comprehensive one-stop-shop initiative – On track • Reviewing processes, structures and capacity as well as tools and methods for general monitoring and evaluation within the public administration – On track • Utilising key performance indicators (KPIs) for the commitment proposals within the Programme of Government, as pertaining to the respective Ministries and their line departments and entities- On track <p>This measure is not CSR relevant but it is aimed to address one of the five priorities of the Annual Growth Survey - Modernising Public Administration.</p>	<p>thus better results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such research enables better policy development and decision making • Such renewal enables the public administration to remain in position to exert its obligations and dues to the public in the best possible way • Improving and simplifying the public administration-citizen interface will reduce both service lead times and durations, to the better satisfaction of all concerned • Upgrading the planning and control functions employed by the public administration will keep it abreast with present service requirements • The identification and use of KPIs provide a clear measure of the impact of initiatives in their delivery]
	<p>Full transition to electronic procurement across Government</p> <p>In 2013 the transition continued to expand. In fact, with few exceptions all tenders above the EU threshold are published as e-tenders. Besides, several Contracting Authorities are publishing their tenders as e-tenders even though they have an estimated value below the EU thresholds.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is relevant to CSR 2, in particular in order to improve the efficiency and reduce the length of public procurement procedures.</p>	<p>Some of the impacts that the transition to e-procurement, could achieve are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase in accessibility and visibility to economic operators which will encourage more cross-border competition; - increase visibility across Government thus better enabling the taking of strategic decisions; - reduction in costs to Government and Economic Operators; - savings to Government; - reductions in time for Contracting Authorities to prepare tenders, schedule and adjudicate offers and for Economic Operators to compile, pack and upload offers; - increase transparency; - reduce both the average tendering period and the average award period.
	<p>Enabling Innovation through legislative and regulatory development</p> <p>The MFSA has continued working to create a legislative and regulatory framework that will nurture innovative products in the sector, while ensuring consumers are not exposed to unwarranted risks. Research and consultation with the industry is ongoing. A number of improvements to Legislation have also been identified including the implementation of the framework on European Long Term Investment Funds, a licencing procedure for public securitisation vehicles as well as a licencing and supervisory framework for binary options. These legislative changes will be implemented throughout 2014. Other proposed changes are currently under evaluation. Changes to legislation is being followed up in various seminars, workshops and also the publication of electronic and printed material to ensure adequate awareness on the changes.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>Currently a number of EU Directives are being reviewed and new ones introduced in the light of the global financial crisis and the subsequent understanding agreed by the G20 on the future of regulation and supervision.</p> <p>The ongoing development and implementation of policies in this respect have helped Malta develop a strong foothold in the single market for financial services and is still the main driver behind the country's efforts to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate its financial services sector ever more closely into the single market; • Provide the Maltese economy with an opportunity to diversify and expand its global reach by providing services that can penetrate distant markets; • Develop servicing capabilities that require economies of scale and that cannot otherwise be developed or sustained on the back of a small domestic market; • Continue to develop the sector into an engine for growth and job creation thereby contributing to the national economy. <p>The MFSA believes in the development of a dynamic framework that enables the industry to develop new products and services while ensuring that regulators can be ahead of the game.</p>
<p>Measures to address growth bottlenecks and economic imbalances</p>	<p>Developing Quality Management in the Public Administration through CAF</p>	

	<p>The Management Efficiency Unit was awarded with a total grant value of € 325,354 in 2012 to manage an ESF Project intended to promote and train the CAF tool as a basis for continuous improvement and adoption of a Total Quality Management model in Departments and Entities.</p> <p>To date, a number of achievements have been made, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The forging of a strategic partnership with the European Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht and the Dipartimento della Funzione Pubblica, Rome - The training of 166 public officials in CAF methodology - 14 MEU personnel followed a train-the-trainer course - The publication of two manuals, the first manual was a CAF 2013 manual while the second publication was an External Feedback manual for use during certification audits - There are four (4) sites officially registered on the EIPA portal being the Gozo Public Library, the Food Safety Unit, the Gozo Sports Complex and the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS), with three (3) pending registrations being FSWS's subsidiary agencies which are APPOGG, SEDQA and SAPPORT. This would sum up to seven (7) registered users. - Creation of a website dedicated to the Common Assessment Framework <p>Status: Delayed (MEU has requested PPCD for an extension up to December 2014 to achieve a total of 10 CAF user organisations. This request was approved).</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant but it is aimed to address one of the five priorities of the Annual Growth Survey - Modernising Public Administration.</p>	<p>The estimated impact of this measure is that the CAF methodology will be introduced in the public administration enabling team based self assessment and continuous improvement interventions.</p> <p>166 public officials were trained in using this tool.</p> <p>The project intends to achieve 10 CAF registered user organisations within the Public Sector. Should these organisations witness increased performance in their delivery, other organisations are expected to follow their example and adopt the CAF model for Total Quality Management.</p> <p>Out of these registered users, 2 will be certified Effective CAF users (CAF Label Certification).</p>
	<p>Quality+</p> <p>Quality+ encourages Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to continuously improve the quality of their products, services and processes through the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • achievement of recognised quality certifications and quality marks related to processes, products or services; • achievement of recognised environmental certifications; • acquisition of a franchise licence; • acquisition of a licence required for participation in a value chain. <p>The incentive was only be granted on approved projects and may cover a maximum of € 20,000 in eligible costs. Malta Enterprise may approve a tax deduction from eligible taxable income equivalent to 150% of the eligible costs (over any normal statutory tax deductions).</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>3 companies were assisted in 2013 with a value of Tax Deduction amounting to € 50,189.</p>
	<p>Smart Fiscal Consolidation</p> <p>The new Government is committed to continue controlling the deficit in public finances with the aim of keeping it at a sustainable level within the framework of the fiscal pact.</p> <p>A Government spending review was carried out to ensure the achievement of improved efficiency in public spending, reduce waste and ensure value for money, thus ensuring greater financial discipline and fiscal accountability in the public sector in particular public entities and Local Councils. Moreover, Government is strengthening and stepping up its efforts towards curbing fiscal abuse and to increase efficiency in revenue collection.</p> <p>Government acknowledges the important role that national fiscal frameworks may play in sustaining budgetary retrenchment. In particular, a new revised national fiscal framework will soon be adopted, which will see the introduction of a new clause in the Constitution regarding a balanced budget. Government also aims to reach a balanced budget in the realistically shortest time possible. In addition, an independent Fiscal Council will be set up with the aim of</p>	<p>In last year's NRP, it was outlined that the 3.3% of GDP deficit was expected to be temporary and exceptional. In fact, during 2013, the deficit-to-GDP ratio was lower than that registered in 2012. The deficit to GDP ratio for 2013, and deficit projections for 2014-2017 are being presented in the Update of the Stability Programme.</p> <p>Over the medium-term, the general Government deficit is expected to decline further as Government's fiscal policy objective remains that of ensuring a sustainable fiscal position by gradually but consistently reducing the fiscal imbalance. Indeed, the decline in the ratio of general Government deficit-to-GDP is expected to be sustained and the fiscal imbalance is expected to be reduced further, primarily aided by a strong macroeconomic environment and a strengthened national fiscal framework, as well as through improved efficiency in public spending and in tax collection.</p>

	<p>evaluating the Government's fiscal projections and to guarantee more transparency in the budgetary process and prudence in the macroeconomic forecasts.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is relevant to CSR 1.</p>	
	<p>Pensions Reform</p> <p>Details can be found under CSR 2. Please refer to Section 3 of the NRP document.</p>	
	<p>Public Infrastructural Projects</p> <p>Between 1999 and end of Q4 2013, 24.5 km of the pre-2014 TEN-T road network across the islands of Malta and Gozo have been reconstructed and upgraded.</p> <p>Access network upgrading for two of Malta's sea ports as well as the upgrading and refurbishing of international port infrastructures is planned with a view to improve cargo and passenger capacity.</p> <p>Government shall be undertaking to prepare a National Transport Strategy and Master Plan aimed at alleviating road traffic bottlenecks on the TEN-T and other strategic roads. Within this process, Government will evaluate the potential for complementary passenger transport systems aimed at reducing reliance on the private car, which inter alia shall include the possibility of introducing a light rail in specific areas within the country whilst strengthening internal scheduled passenger transport by sea. Appropriate road infrastructure measures will be introduced so as to improve the safety of pedestrians and to ensure that road infrastructure is accessible for all.</p> <p>Maritime infrastructure upgrades designed to maximise both capacity and safety within the current constraints of the Mġarr harbour and Ċirkewwa terminal will provide a crucial maritime link between the TEN-T (comprehensive) road networks on each island, so essential to ensure the mobility of persons and goods in a timely manner. Ċirkewwa terminal landside works and all three berths are now complete and in operation.</p> <p>The Valletta breakwater refurbishment was completed in Q1 2013. The Marsaxlokk breakwater refurbishment is also at an advanced stage of completion and together these aim to guarantee appropriate shelter of the two main commercial ports of Malta for the longer term. Other planned maritime infrastructure measures shall include the improvement of existing facilities for cruise liners and the development of new cruise liner facilities in Gozo. Planning for the longer term, Malta is seeking TEN-T funding to support further study of tunnel alignment options to further improve the links between Malta and Gozo.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is partly relevant to CSR 4, in particular in order to reduce emissions from the transport sector.</p>	<p>Development of the TEN-T network and external links are crucial for Malta's tourism and export oriented economy as well as to ensure the mobility of persons. In this respect, the continued development and completion of the TEN-T network, the development of maritime links and ports (freight) and aviation links and ports (tourism/business) continue to be crucial for Malta.</p> <p>The terminal upgrades are now providing modern facilities for the current 4 million passenger and 2 million vehicle annual movements and their expected increase in the coming years.</p> <p>The establishment of a National Transport Strategy will allow the Government to propose future transport improvements within a defined strategy and the Master Plan will allow both Government and industry to have a clear project pipeline thus encouraging economies of scale.</p> <p>Other infrastructure measures indicated are expected to remove bottlenecks in the transportation network thus facilitating efficient movement of freight and persons.</p>
	<p>Private Investment Incentives</p> <p>Tax Credit Scheme/s</p> <p>CREATE</p> <p>Undertakings including self-employed involved in the creative industry could have benefitted through this incentive in the form of a tax credit. The aid was calculated as a percentage of the eligible costs incurred by these undertakings in the development of their creative endeavours.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p> <p>Industrial Parks</p> <p>With an investment of € 16 million, Malta Industrial Parks has started an extensive programme</p>	<p>Tax Credit Schemes</p> <p>CREATE</p> <p>In 2013, 3 beneficiaries were assisted, amounting to € 20,756 in tax credits.</p> <p>Industrial Parks</p> <p>The upgrading of these industrial zones will enhance Malta's competitiveness as an</p>

<p>of upgrading works in a number of industrial zones.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p> <p>Business First</p> <p>Malta Enterprise launched the “Business First” (Malta’s one stop shop for business) on the 23rd January 2012. Apart from the schemes and services offered by Malta Enterprise, more than 50 services from various Government departments and entities are being provided through Business First, with the aim of facilitating the day to day operations of local enterprises.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p> <p>ERDF funded grant schemes</p> <p>Applications under the 3rd call of the ERDF R&D Grant Scheme and the 4th Call of the ERDF Start-Up Grant Scheme, ERDF International Competitiveness Scheme, and the ERDF Innovation Actions Grant Scheme have been processed during 2012 and resulted in an allocation of over €4.5 million in aid.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant</p> <p>Online Government Services</p> <p>By end 2013, the Government completed a number of measures aimed at facilitating the deployment of online services and addressing growth bottlenecks. These being the launch of solution for online procurement in June 2011, the launch of a solution for deployment of online forms in November 2011, the implementation of myBills (processing of online payments and Electronic Bill Presentment and Payment) solution by end 2011 and the implementation of 193 new e-Government Services onto the eForms Platform that were completed by end 2013.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p> <p>Culture and Creative Industries</p> <p>An overarching strategy for the period 2014-2020 that bridges cultural policy programmes, the programme for the implementation of the European Capital of Culture and the creative economy strategy is currently being implemented with restructuring, business plan developments and funding reviews as immediate priorities.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>industrial location thus contributing to the sustaining of Malta’s growing knowledge based economy and promoting and safeguarding jobs in this key strategic sector.</p> <p>Business First</p> <p>The services offered by Business First will affect in particular SMEs and even more so start-up companies by providing authoritative information and assistance on various business services offered under one roof. As a result, businesses will spend less time dealing with such formalities whilst prospective new businesses will not be discouraged from entering the business due to their lack of familiarity with the business environment.</p> <p>ERDF funded grant schemes</p> <p>These schemes have contributed to: business growth by assisting start-ups; Enhance innovation by assisting businesses in launching new or improved products; Increases ICT usage in businesses and Increase in the adoption of environmentally sensitive technologies by providing aid to SMEs.</p> <p>Currently there are 43 projects in Gozo and 464 projects in Malta that are complete or ongoing with a total of over € 31 Million allocated.</p> <p>Online Government Services</p> <p>The online procurement facilitates the submission of tenders and reduces paperwork burdens.</p> <p>The next generation e-Government platform is providing citizens with a truly citizen-centric service which will fundamentally transform customer experience whilst also delivering seamless, cross border and pan-European services.</p> <p>Culture and Creative Industries</p> <p>19 actions from the 42 actions identified have been implemented or ongoing.</p>	<p>industrial location thus contributing to the sustaining of Malta’s growing knowledge based economy and promoting and safeguarding jobs in this key strategic sector.</p> <p>Business First</p> <p>The services offered by Business First will affect in particular SMEs and even more so start-up companies by providing authoritative information and assistance on various business services offered under one roof. 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<p>Strengthening Financial Stability</p> <p>Transposition and adoption of the macro-prudential provisions under the Capital Requirements Directive IV (CRDIV) and, the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) has already been adopted or is being adopted in line with the provisions of such framework..</p> <p>The aforementioned initiatives also form part of a wider context which includes the</p>	<p>Transposition and adoption of the macro-prudential provisions under the Capital Requirements Directive IV (CRDIV) and, the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) has already been adopted or is being adopted in line with the provisions of such framework..</p> <p>The aforementioned initiatives also form part of a wider context which includes the</p>	<p>Given the degree of interdependence for the functioning of such initiatives, Malta continues to strive towards a timely adoption, providing the relevant input as required and remaining ready to make the necessary additions to national legislation for the safeguarding and strengthening of financial stability.</p>

	<p>implementation of a full Banking Union within the European Union with direct supervision by the ECB (together with National Authorities) of all banks in the Union applying a Single Rulebook, a Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM), a Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM) and with a common system of Deposit Guarantee Schemes (DGS).</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is relevant to CSRs 1 and 5.</p>	
	<p>Revision of Tax Bands</p> <p>As announced in the budget for 2014, as from the year 2014, the maximum rate of income tax will be reduced from 32% (which was the maximum rate in 2013) to 29%.</p> <p>Status: Completed</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>Persons within the said tax bands will benefit from a higher disposable income.</p> <p>This will be done in a way that ensures that the financial targets of Government are not prejudiced.</p>
	<p>Grant Scheme for Sustainable Tourism Projects by Enterprises</p> <p>There were 104 beneficiaries for the first three calls but during implementation this decreased to 100 due to change of business direction or non-adherence to regulations. They were completed by December 2013. A fourth call was issued in January 2014. All Selected projects are envisaged to be implemented throughout 2014 and all repayments from the Intermediate Body should be concluded by December 2014.</p> <p>Status: Ongoing</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>The 100 projects which were co-financed by call 1, 2, and 3 resulted in a disbursement of approximately € 7.1 million. The co-financing provided to beneficiaries through the first three calls of the scheme instigated further private sector investment valued at € 8.5 million. The fourth call which envisages 16 beneficiaries was issued with a total indicative budget of € 1.03 million which increased to € 1.8 million.</p>
	<p>Palazzini – Luxury Heritage Tourism Accommodation - Pilot Project</p> <p>Following an expression of interest which generated 22 applications, 11 were selected, mainly from Valletta, Żebbuġ, Żejtun and Senglea. During 2013 a collaborative exercise took place with MEPA to introduce the Palazzini Category with the Development (Use Classes) Order 1994. The pilot study highlighted two main challenges: financial and structural. Meetings were held with MEPA, Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the National Commission for People with a Disability (KNPD) and the Health Department in order to facilitate the process for the potential investor. Working groups were set up between MTA, MEPA and KNPD to kick-start assessment and consultation of each project. Two case officers from MEPA were appointed to assess each project with MTA before the application was formalized with MEPA. MTA is assessing each project with a KNPD architect and holding consultative meetings with each applicant before each application is formalised with MEPA.</p> <p>Status: On Track</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>The expected impact will be an increase in direct investment by the private sector in urban conservation areas. The refurbished properties will attract high-value tourists and should result in a consequent increase in revenue. The conversion of the palazzi for this use will revive properties in dire need of restoration. The project also provides expert guidance to investors which can be utilised in future in other similar projects.</p>
New/updated Euro Plus Pact commitments		
	<p>Establish the eSkills Alliance as a Purpose Foundation</p> <p>The newly established eSkills Foundation provides advice to government and stake holders on matters related to e-skills policy. It also acts as a driver to instigate further reform in the ICT educational offerings and contribute to capacity-building in the ICT education community. The Foundation will reflect the principles of the EU's Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs and contribute to the expansion of ICT educational programmes and related formative initiatives.</p> <p>This measure is relevant to CSR 3, in particular in order to increase the labour-market relevance of education and training to address skills gaps.</p>	<p>This measure will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the expansion of ICT educational programmes and related formative initiatives. • Lead to an ICT professionalism development programme. • Champion campaigns and promote the Maltese eSkills potential locally and internationally.
	<p>ICT Competencies for better employability and workforce adaptability</p>	

	<p>To date, the MCA has issued all key tenders and all main procurements will be concluded by end April. Training related materials, including training manual and workbook, have been compiled. The project has also embarked on an in-depth awareness campaign, involving an exhaustive television campaign throughout the month of March and April.</p> <p>The training, which includes two courses; Course A (Introduction to the Internet) & Course B (Internet at Work) will be delivered through various training centres operated by NGOs, Local Councils and public agencies.</p> <p>Training is scheduled to start as from the first weeks of May 2014.</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>The project aims to expose non computer users to experience the benefits of ICT. This will contribute to the Malta Communications Authority's efforts in achieving widespread ICT literacy, digital inclusion and the use of ICTs as a tool to improve quality of life for all citizens, in particular disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>The goal of the project is to increase the basic ICT competences of individuals aged 25 to 64 by 1.5% (increase in ICT literacy).</p>
	<p>Continuing the transition to e-procurement</p> <p>During 2014, all Ministries will be expected to set out a plan for the continuation of the transition for tenders below EU threshold in respect of all contracting authorities within their portfolio.</p> <p>The advanced stage of the transition to e-procurement on a national scale which is well on track will certainly contribute to increase efficiency in the award of public contracts thus leading to reduced award lead times.</p> <p>This measure is relevant to CSR 2, in particular in order to improve the efficiency and reduce the length of public procurement procedures.</p>	<p>Please refer to the measure 'Full Transition to electronic procurement across Government' above.</p>
	<p>Initiative to reduce precarious work</p> <p>This measure is being implemented through OPM Circular No 15/2013 'Clarification for Tender Proposals' issued in August 2013. The main intent of this measure is to ensure that contractors awarded contracts by Government Departments or public sector organisations observe employment laws. Any companies which do not observe employment laws will be disqualified from participating in Government and public sector tendering processes. This should ensure that any contracts awarded by Government departments or public sector organisations do not lead to precarious employment situations.</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>Government and public sector tenders awarded to companies that observe employment law.</p>
	<p>Shop Opening Hours</p> <p>The scope of this measure is to provide a more flexible approach for retail outlets to open on hours and days which diverge from the standard business hours. To this end the Trading Licensing Regulations need to be amended accordingly. These amendments are expected to stimulate the retail sector whilst facilitating shopping opportunities for both tourists and local residents.</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>The expected impact of this measure is an increase in the commercial activities of retail businesses and thus a growth in this vital sector of the economy.</p>
<p>New/Updated Measures to address growth bottlenecks and economic imbalances</p>		
	<p>Development of a Digital Hub</p> <p>This measure entails the development of a hub, which will be designed and developed in order to be conducive towards the establishment of synergic and joint actions for enterprises in the creative sectors, as well as creating the environment and structure for the training and mentoring of new enterprises.</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>Currently, new enterprises in the sector are being interspersed across various locations resulting in limited, if any, collaborative projects. The development of a central hub is thus intended to provide the physical environment which will serve as a catalyst for collaborative and possibly clustering activities.</p>
	<p>Business Promotion and Incentive Framework</p> <p>Through this measure, the Ministry for Gozo will try to incentivise the creation of business opportunities. Presently, the Ministry is discussing what sectors are to be targeted through this</p>	<p>Through this measure, the Government will try to incentivise the creation of further business opportunities in Gozo.</p>

	<p>measure.</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	
	<p>Modernising Public Administration – Using ICT in the Achievement of Government’s Simplification and Reduction of Bureaucracy Agenda</p> <p>Government will be simplifying the process of deploying e-government services. This is an initiative to promote and provide one face to online Government by simplifying this access through a set of life events (pregnancy and birth, getting a passport, looking for a job).</p> <p>Government will also focus on the simplification of social security online services and Courts online services.</p> <p>This measure is partially relevant to CSR 5, in particular in order to improve the overall efficiency of the judicial system. It is also aimed to address one of the five priorities of the Annual Growth Survey - Modernising Public Administration.</p>	<p>The modernising of Public Administration will Improve the accuracy and timeliness of the data capture and reduce the visits to the Social Security department and area offices. Furthermore various real time services will be offered by the Courts to the citizens and legal profession that will increase the case clearance rate and decrease the disposition time.</p>
	<p>JEREMIE Financial Engineering Instrument</p> <p>JEREMIE is an ERDF (2007-2013) co-financed Financial Engineering Instrument set up to promote and provide increased access to finance for the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Malta. JEREMIE targets SMEs which may face difficulty in accessing credit from traditional banking sources, and provides assistance through advantageous interest rates and enhanced collateral requirements for SMEs. This is not a Grant Scheme, but a revolving instrument. The instrument may generate returns which will need to be used for same/similar instruments.</p> <p>The first JEREMIE initiative was a runaway success and the allocation was committed by June 2013, well before the three year period which commenced in April 2011, and therefore a further € 2 million were allocated to the JEREMIE initiative.</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>Loans under the JEREMIE initiative can range from € 25,000 up to a maximum of € 500,000. The average loan is of around € 70,000.</p> <p>The portfolio needs to be fully committed and disbursed before the 31st December 2015, with a € 62.24m investment induced through JEREMIE Financial Instruments and an estimated total of 600 SMEs benefiting from such loans.</p>
	<p>Managed Seed Capital Fund</p> <p>The Managed Seed Capital Fund is intended to facilitate the creation of Knowledge based business ideas which give final year and Master student projects within the engineering, science, ICT and medical and health sciences sectors the opportunity of further development.</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>The idea behind this fund is to encourage students possessing creative and innovative ideas to get the necessary financial support to be able to develop their ideas into business concepts.</p>
	<p>Aviation Malta</p> <p>Aviation Malta aims to be a catalyst for the Government in serving the Aviation Industry holistically, economically and efficiently while engaging in a National Aviation Plan.</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>Aviation Malta will serve as the Ministry’s arm in the Aviation field and ensure that government’s policy will be successful. It aims to produce an airport master plan, revive aviation derelict sites for new business and improve education in the aviation field.</p>
	<p>Setting up of the National Aerospace Centre</p> <p>The project aims to provide support to the local aerospace industry and government agencies, thus fostering public-private partnerships, contributing to the exploitation of national capacities and fostering the growth of aerospace activities in Malta. It also aims to showcase national capacity in aerospace technologies by focusing on high-profile research and innovation and international cooperation.</p> <p>This measure is not CSR relevant.</p>	<p>The expected impact will be higher income in the aviation sector, higher international reputation, graduate retention and industry growth.</p>