



Malta

National Reform Programme

Annex Table 1

Malta's contribution to the Country-specific recommendations (CSR) assessment

Ministry for Finance and Employment
April 2023

Country Specific Recommendation	Measure	Type (Not Defined, Announced, Adopted, Implemented, Deleted)	Action Date (i.e. date when measure started being implemented)	State of Play
CSR.2022.1				
CSR 1 Subpart 1: In 2023, ensure that the growth of nationally financed primary current expenditure is in line with an overall neutral policy stance, taking into account continued temporary and targeted support to households and firms most vulnerable to energy price hikes and to people fleeing Ukraine. Stand ready to adjust current spending to the evolving situation.	<p>Additional COLA mechanism for the vulnerable</p> <p>Despite the fact that the COLA in 2023 is among the highest, a new COLA mechanism will be introduced for the most vulnerable. Around 80,000 people will receive an additional COLA increase from the Government without any additional burden on businesses.</p>	Implemented	December 2022	The initial payment for the Additional COLA mechanism was paid on the 17 th December 2022. More than 44,000 households (equivalent to more than 87,000 households) have received this payment.
	<p>The Maltese Government is committed to protect the most vulnerable, mitigate inflationary pressures and protect economic growth in the light of the international uncertainty emanating from the conflict in Eastern Europe. In this regard, the Maltese Government committed itself unequivocally to continue providing the necessary support for as long as it is needed and is committed to stabilise inflation of essential commodities such as energy and food. In this regard energy price support measures will amount to 3.4 per cent of GDP in 2023 from 2.4 per cent in 2022 while support to vulnerable households through social measures presented in the Budget for 2023 are expected to reach 0.4 per cent of GDP in 2023. So as to limit the adverse impact on public finances, the Government adjusted its spending to support the economy and stabilise the price of basic commodities permitting the economy to recover completely and even register a notable rate of economic expansion. Indeed, the economy is generating more revenue than anticipated, whilst the increase in subsidies is supported by expenditure consolidation measures. This will ensure that public finances remain under control while the public debt ratio remains stable.</p>	Announced	24 October 2022	
CSR 1 Subpart 2: Expand public investment for the green and digital transitions, and for energy security taking into account the REPowerEU initiative, including by making	<p>Digital Innovation Hub</p> <p>A very important development in 2022 was the European Commission's decision to have Malta's proposal for a Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) project financed by European funds. The</p>	Announced	1 January 2023	The Grant Agreement (GA) for EU funding has been signed and is effective from 1 st January 2023. Progress is being registered to achieve the deliverables and milestones in the GA. A cost-benefit analysis for the premises to host the DIH is currently being conducted.

use of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and other Union funds.	DIH aims to provide digital transformation opportunities to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Start-ups, through technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Cyber High-Performance Computing (HPC) and cloud solutions.			
	Business Enhance Scheme In 2023, Government will continue to offer cash grant opportunities with an investment of about €40 million to small and medium-sized enterprises under the Business Enhance scheme.	Implemented	To be determined.	3 schemes were designed, and a presentation was given to the Monitoring Committee. Further schemes are being designed to ensure the full use of funding available.
	Business Enhance Scheme (Digitalisation) The private sector will continue to be incentivised in this area through grants, which shall cover self-employed persons who operate on a small scale under the Business Enhance programme with a €15 million grant.	Implemented	June 2022	Schemes were launched in June 2022. A total of 3 calls under each of the 2 schemes were launched and concluded in 2022. Schemes were launched on an open rolling basis in January 2023.
	InvestEU Malta will also be participating in the InvestEU initiative with other opportunities for enterprises. The financial instruments for businesses with European funds will continue in the coming years.	Announced	13 January 2023	The Contribution Agreement between Malta and the Commission was signed on 13 January 2023, in line with commitment undertaken in the Partnership Agreement for the said Agreement to be in place not later than 15 January 2023.
	Renovation in Private Sector Buildings The grant scheme under the RRP for the climate-friendly renovation of commercial buildings in the private sector with a value of around €20 million will continue during 2023.	Implemented	June 2022	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	Digitalisation of the Maritime Register During 2023, Government will continue its massive investment in digitalisation from the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). In the public sector, this includes, among others, an investment of around €6 million in the maritime register.	Implemented	October 2022	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	Digitalisation in the justice sector During 2023, Government will continue its massive investment in digitalisation from the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). In the public sector, this includes, among others, an investment of over €10 million in the justice sector.	Announced	Works commenced in January 2023	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
CSR 1 Subpart 3: For the period beyond 2023, pursue a fiscal policy aimed at achieving prudent medium-term fiscal positions.	Going forward, the overall fiscal policy stance will be marginally contractionary, with a targeted decline in the deficit and the structural deficit, thus ensuring that the fiscal stance does not add additional pressures on domestic price levels. Moreover the medium term plan is targeting a reduction in the excessive deficit by 2025.	Announced	24 October 2022	

CSR.2022.2				
CSR 2 Subpart 1: Proceed with the implementation of its recovery and resilience plan, in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decision of 5 October 2021.	Implementation of Malta's Recovery and Resilience Plan The implementation of the Recovery and Resilience plan has proceeded and is on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.	Implemented	5 October 2021	Reporting on FENIX is underway and follows reporting requirements, updated biannually. The milestones and targets due in 2021 laying the ground for the first payment request have all been achieved; and the payment request was submitted in December 2022. The second payment request is planned to be submitted by the end of quarter two of 2023.
CSR 2 Subpart 2: Submit the 2021-2027 cohesion policy programming documents with a view to finalising their negotiations with the Commission and subsequently starting their implementation.	Submission of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy programming documents with a view to adoption Malta and the Commission have agreed on operational arrangements of a technical nature, detailing aspects of the implementation with respect to timelines, indicators for the milestones and targets, and access to supporting documentation. The European Commission approved Malta's Partnership Agreement in September 2022 with reference to the Cohesion Policy programmes. The Partnership Agreement outlines the strategic direction for investments made during the Multiannual Financial Framework from the Cohesion Policy funds (ERDF, ESF+, and Cohesion Fund), the JTF, and the EMFAF. The European Commission also approved Malta's Programmes as follows: The ERDF/CF/JTF Programme was adopted by the European Commission on 21 October 2022; the ESF+ Programme was adopted by the European Commission on 28 October 2022; and the EMFAF Programme was adopted by the European Commission on 28 November 2022.	Implemented	November 2022	By November 2022, all Cohesion Policy programmes had been formally approved by the European Commission. Malta will benefit from €817 million in Cohesion Policy funding in 2021-2027 to support the sustainable development of the economy. EU funds will support green transition and energy security and digital transformation. Along with fostering the development of a sustainable blue economy and enhancing the resilience of the fishing industry, the funding will also help individuals obtain additional skills, employment opportunities, and social inclusion. An important share of the funds will be invested in ensuring energy efficiency and energy storage capacity through the development of a second electricity interconnector. Moreover, funding from the Just Transition Fund will be invested in electricity power supplies to help decarbonising the Grand Harbour and Malta Freeport.
CSR.2022.3				
CSR 3 Subpart 1: Take action to effectively address features of the tax system that may facilitate aggressive tax planning by individuals and multinational companies, including by ensuring sufficient taxation of outbound payments of interests, royalties, and dividends, and amending the rules for non-domiciled companies.	Transfer Pricing legislation, Study on Outbound and Inbound Payments and Spontaneous exchange of information mechanism	Implemented	October 2021	The milestones and targets related to these areas are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	The Tax Return Year of Assessment 2022 TRA 124 Supplement	Implemented	June 2022	Applied from Year of Assessment 2022 tax return. This measure is intended to enable an internal review to be undertaken on the matter by the end of Q2 2023.

	The Year of Assessment 2022's corporate tax return has introduced a new reporting obligation for non-domiciled companies to gather data on non-remitted income.			
	<p>Changes to the Tax Return Year of Assessment 2022 reflecting the limitations to the Participation Exemption System with respect to the EU's list of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions</p> <p>The Budget Measures Implementation Act has introduced limitations to the participation exemption with respect to certain inbound payments from bodies of persons resident in jurisdictions included in the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for a period of at least three months.</p>	Implemented	June 2022	This has been affected in the corporate tax return for Year of Assessment 2022.
CSR.2022.4				
CSR 4 Subpart 1: Reduce overall reliance on fossil fuels.	<p>Electrification of the public transport fleet</p> <p>Government will continue to electrify the public transport fleet with an investment of millions of euro. A large amount of the fleet will consist of electric vehicles.</p>	Implemented	December 2022	<p>In line with the RRP, Government is committed to support the part replacement of its public transport fleet (Euro 5) with electric buses. An MOU between Government and Operator has been signed in December 2022. Now discussions are ongoing to set the implementation arrangements for the purchase of the 102 e-buses. €34 million from the RRP shall cover the difference in price between a conventional bus and an e-bus for 102 buses. Additional investment by the Government shall be carried out to ensure the availability of adequate infrastructure for the charging of the e-buses, discussions are ongoing on this part with operator, Enemalta and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>The operator is in the process of acquiring additional 25 new electric buses, which are to be put in service in the coming weeks to increase the frequency of bus services.</p> <p>Two 100% electric, zero-emission buses have already been added as part of the scheduled public transport fleet in Malta to serve as test base for when the roll out of more e-buses will materialise.</p> <p>Discussions are also ongoing in order to finalise plans on the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of areas where buses will be charged • Reviewing Infrastructural requirements (to put up charging stations) • Reviewing possibilities of financing infrastructural requirements • Reviewing contractual changes required. <p>Buses expected to be deployed on service by Q2 2025.</p>
	<p>Grant for the purchase of new electric vehicles</p> <p>The financial grant aiming to incentivise the acquisition of new electricity-powered vehicles will be renewed, and whoever buys a new electric vehicle, including motorcycles, will be entitled to an €11,000 grant, which would go up to a maximum of €12,000 if the vehicle scrappage scheme is availed of as well. The same applies to the scheme which incentivises the purchase of mopeds, pedelecs and bicycles assisted by an electric motor.</p>	Announced	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.

	<p>Extension of other schemes promoting cleaner vehicles</p> <p>In 2023, electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles with a battery autonomy of 50km or more will still be exempted from registration tax and from payment of the annual road licence fee for a period of 5 years from the date of first registration.</p>	Implemented	1 January 2023	This measure is being implemented. It will help to encourage and boost the uptake of cleaner vehicles and contributes towards mitigating CO ₂ levels of pollution.
	<p>Schemes for the installation of solar panels and batteries for renewable energy storage</p> <p>Government will continue issuing schemes for the installation of solar panels and batteries for renewable energy storage.</p>	Implemented	26 February 2021	This measure continued throughout 2022 and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 1774 of 2022.
	<p>Schemes for the installation of heat pump water heaters and solar water heaters</p> <p>Government will again offer schemes for the installation of heat pump water heaters and solar water heaters.</p>	Implemented	26 April 2021 for both SWH and HPWH	<p>The heat pump water heater (HPWH) scheme continued throughout 2022 and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 1776 of 2022.</p> <p>The solar water heater (SWH) scheme continued throughout 2022 and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 1775 of 2022.</p>
	<p>Feed-In Tariff Schemes</p> <p>8MW capacity will be made available for the Feed-In Tariff scheme for photovoltaics of less than 40kWp installed in residential and non-residential sectors, while the Feed-In Tariff scheme for households benefitting from a grant will also be extended.</p>	Announced	To be determined.	
CSR 4 Subpart 2: Accelerate the deployment of renewables, promoting and enabling investments in wind and solar energy, including in floating offshore energy,	<p>Extension of schemes for installation of photovoltaic panels on vehicles</p> <p>The scheme whereby vehicles such as minibuses, coaches and trucks that have photovoltaic panels installed on top are given a grant up to a maximum of €900 will be extended.</p>	Announced	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	Grants application for this measure will be published in the coming weeks.
	<p>Schemes for the installation of solar panels and batteries for renewable energy storage</p> <p>Government will again offer schemes for the installation of solar panels and batteries for renewable energy storage.</p>	Implemented	26 February 2021	This measure continued throughout 2022 and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 1774 of 2022.
	<p>Schemes for the installation of heat pump water heaters and solar water heaters</p> <p>Government will again offer schemes for the installation of heat pump water heaters and solar water heaters.</p>	Implemented	26 April 2021 for both SWH and HPWH	<p>The heat pump water heater (HPWH) scheme continued throughout 2022 and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 1776 of 2022.</p> <p>The solar water heater (SWH) scheme continued throughout 2022 and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 1775 of 2022.</p>
	<p>Feed-In Tariff Schemes</p> <p>8MW capacity will be made available for the Feed-In Tariff scheme for photovoltaics of less than 40kWp installed in residential and non-residential sectors, while the Feed-In Tariff scheme for households benefitting from a grant will also be extended.</p>	Announced	To be determined.	

CSR 4 Subpart 3: further upgrading Malta's electricity transmission and distribution grids, and creating incentives for electricity storage to supply firm, flexible and fast-responding energy.	Schemes for the installation of solar panels and batteries for renewable energy storage Government will again offer schemes for the installation of solar panels and batteries for renewable energy storage.	Implemented	26 February 2021	This measure continued throughout 2022 and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 1774 of 2022.
CSR 4 Subpart 4: Reduce energy demand through improved energy efficiency, particularly in residential buildings.				
CSR 4 Subpart 5: Reduce emissions from road transport by addressing traffic congestion through improved service quality in public transport, intelligent transport systems and investing in soft mobility infrastructure.	Road Infrastructure From 2018 to the end of 2022, Government will have invested a total of €507 million in road infrastructure improvements in Malta. Several large infrastructural projects were completed with this investment.	Implemented	January 2018	Mrieħel Underpass and Ғal Kirkop Tunnels have been completed. Airport Intersection Project and the Luqa Junction: The Grade Separation Junctions at WA 24 MIA Junction and WA 23 Dinitrol Junction along the TEN-T Core Section of Civil Aviation Avenue, Luqa, Malta project is being funded through CEF Transport with total eligible cost of €25,703,462. Works are ongoing. Work is ongoing on residential roads.
	Extension of schemes for installation of diesel particle filters (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems on vehicles The scheme whereby minibus, coach and truck operators install diesel particle filters (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems will be extended.	Implemented	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	Grants applications for this measure will be published in the coming weeks.
CSR.2021.1				
CSR 1 Subpart 1: In 2022, maintain a supportive fiscal stance, including the impulse provided by the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and preserve nationally financed investment.				
CSR 1 Subpart 2: When economic conditions allow, pursue a fiscal policy aimed at achieving prudent medium-term fiscal positions and ensuring fiscal sustainability in the medium term.				
CSR 1 Subpart 3: At the same time, enhance investment to boost growth potential. Pay particular attention to the composition of public finances, on both the revenue and expenditure sides of the national budget, and to the quality of budgetary measures in order to ensure a sustainable and inclusive recovery. Prioritise sustainable and	New IT system for the fisheries and aquaculture sector Government will be investing in fishermen's knowledge with a new IT system that will reform the fisheries and aquaculture sector by modernising the infrastructure with digital tools and a more efficient service.	Announced	December 2023	The technical specifications required for the programming of an IT system in order to modernise the current infrastructure is currently being compiled. Such specifications will serve as the basis for the software development so as to utilise digital tools for the provision of a more efficient and effective service.

growth-enhancing investment, in particular investment supporting the green and digital transition				
	<p>Digital Innovation Hub</p> <p>The Digital Innovation Hub aims to provide digital transformation opportunities to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Start-ups, through technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Cyber High-Performance Computing (HPC) and cloud solutions.</p>	Announced	1 January 2023	The Grant Agreement (GA) for EU funding has been signed and is effective from 1 st January 2023. Progress is being registered to achieve the deliverables and milestones in the GA. A cost-benefit analysis for the premises to host the DIH is currently being conducted.
	<p>Venture Capital Fund</p> <p>A study on the establishment of a Venture Capital Fund is ongoing. The objective is to have a framework for Venture Capital funds aimed at helping industries establish themselves in Malta.</p>	Announced	01/10/2023	After allocation of an initial funding budget, discussions on an assistance programme are being undertaken with the European Investment Bank which will allow for this programme to be developed and launched.
	<p>Adequate Infrastructure for Industries (New plots for various clusters)</p> <p>During 2023, Government will create new plots for various clusters through INDIS Malta to meet the ever-increasing demands.</p>	Announced	01/12/2023	INDIS has earmarked an area at Hal Far, designated as HHFO39, for the development of a new multi-level industrial cluster. This project is intended to be developed as a Public Private Partnership on a design build, maintain and operate basis. INDIS is aiming to be in a position to select a suitable economic operator by end 2023.
	<p>Adequate Infrastructure for Industries (Factory extensions)</p> <p>During 2023, work will begin on various extensions of factories established in Malta.</p>	Announced	01/01/2023	INDIS shall commence work on the building of a major extension of the Trelleborg complex at Hal Far during the first quarter of 2023, with the aim of completing all civil works by end 2023. This extension shall incorporate an underground carpark, administrative, logistical and manufacturing facilities.
	<p>Business Enhance Scheme (Digitalisation)</p> <p>The private sector will continue to be incentivised in this area through grants, which shall cover self-employed persons who operate on a small scale under the Business Enhance programme with a €15 million grant.</p>	Implemented	June 2022	Schemes were launched in June 2022. A total of 3 calls under each of the 2 schemes were launched and concluded in 2022. Schemes were launched on an open rolling basis in January 2023.
	<p>Renovation in Private Sector Buildings</p> <p>The grant scheme under the RRP for the climate-friendly renovation of commercial buildings in the private sector with a value of around €20 million will continue during 2023.</p>	Implemented	June 2022	The scheme was launched in 2022 (announcement on 22 June 2022). One call was issued in 2022 - Call 1 under the Renovation of Private Sector Buildings Grant Scheme. The scheme is currently being re-designed in view of GBER amendments and a second call will be issued in February 2023.
	<p>Digitalisation of the Maritime Register</p> <p>During 2023, Government will continue its massive investment in digitalisation from the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). In the public sector, this includes, among others, an investment of around €6 million in the maritime register.</p>	Implemented	October 2022	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	<p>Maritime Infrastructure</p> <p>The Government has just signed a contract to begin extension works on the Pinto and Lascaris Wharves with the aim of having a</p>	Announced	August 2022	Contractor has mobilised and works started on site.

	straight wharf for the docking of large ships of around 330 metres.			
	<p>Electrification of the public transport fleet</p> <p>Government will continue to electrify the public transport fleet with an investment of millions of euro. A large amount of the fleet will consist of electric vehicles.</p>	Implemented	December 2022	<p>In line with the RRP, Government is committed to support the part replacement of its public transport fleet (Euro 5) with electric buses. An MOU between Government and Operator has been signed in December 2022. Now discussions are ongoing to set the implementation arrangements for the purchase of the 102 e-buses. €34 million from the RRP shall cover the difference in price between a conventional bus and an e-bus for 102 buses. Additional investment by the Government shall be carried out to ensure the availability of adequate infrastructure for the charging of the e-buses, discussions are ongoing on this part with operator, Enemalta and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>The operator is in the process of acquiring additional 25 new electric buses, which are to be put in service in the coming weeks to increase the frequency of bus services.</p> <p>Two 100% electric, zero-emission buses have already been added as part of the scheduled public transport fleet in Malta to serve as test base for when the roll out of more e-buses will materialise.</p> <p>Discussions are also ongoing in order to finalise plans on the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of areas where buses will be charged • Reviewing Infrastructural requirements (to put up charging stations) • Reviewing possibilities of financing infrastructural requirements • Reviewing contractual changes required. <p>Buses expected to be deployed on service by Q2 2025.</p>
	<p>Grant for the purchase of new electric vehicles</p> <p>The financial grant aiming to incentivise the acquisition of new electricity-powered vehicles will be renewed, and whoever buys a new electric vehicle, including motorcycles, will be entitled to an €11,000 grant, which would go up to a maximum of €12,000 if the vehicle scrappage scheme is availed of as well. The same applies to the scheme which incentivises the purchase of mopeds, pedelecs and bicycles assisted by an electric motor. The total expenditure on these grants will be €20 million.</p>	Announced	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	<p>Extension of other schemes promoting cleaner vehicles</p> <p>In 2023, electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles with a battery autonomy of 50km or more will still be exempted from registration tax and from payment of the annual road licence fee for a period of 5 years from the date of first registration.</p>	Implemented	1 January 2023	This measure is being implemented. It will help to encourage and boost the uptake of cleaner vehicles and contributes towards mitigating CO ₂ levels of pollution.
	<p>Extension of schemes for installation of photovoltaic panels on vehicles</p> <p>The scheme whereby vehicles such as minibuses, coaches and trucks that have photovoltaic panels installed on top are given a</p>	Announced	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	Grants application for this measure will be published in the coming weeks.

	grant up to a maximum of €900 will be extended.			
	<p>Extension of schemes for installation of diesel particle filters (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems on vehicles</p> <p>The scheme whereby minibus, coach and truck operators install diesel particle filters (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems will be extended.</p>	Implemented	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	Grants applications for this measure will be published in the coming weeks.
	<p>Incentives for long-stay tourism in Gozo</p> <p>The market of tourists who spend the winter months in Malta is increasing, and this is seen as something that will continue to grow. Therefore, together with the Gozo Tourism Association, Government will launch an incentive scheme to attract this type of tourism to the island of Gozo in partnership with tour operators so that Gozo enjoys more tourism in the low season.</p>	Announced	November 2023	The design of implementation of the initiative is well underway following a number of stakeholder discussions that took place. In the months before the implementation of the scheme, i.e. November 2023, the involved stakeholders shall continue their preparatory efforts collectively which are necessary for the devising of this incentive. The scheme shall be launched at the commencement of the shoulder period, up till March 2024.
	<p>Investment in the infrastructure of the Malta Film Studios</p> <p>The film industry continues to create job opportunities and attract more investment. Investment in the infrastructure of the Malta Film Studios will continue with the building of the first sound stages in Malta.</p>	Implemented	January 2021	During the past 2 years, a lot of investment has been made to improve the infrastructure of the Malta Film Studios, namely, the building of the new offices, the procurement and installation of new compressors and the building of a new soundstage. Progress is ongoing to implement the Master Plan.
	<p>Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant scheme</p> <p>Malta Enterprise will be doubling its financial assistance in the form of cash grants to all Maltese companies that invest in digital and sustainable projects. In fact, the grant will be covering 50% of the eligible investment, up to a maximum of €100,000.</p> <p>Gozitan businesses and start-ups will continue to benefit from an additional 10% in financial assistance in the form of a tax credit, and this grant can be doubled to 20% if the companies invest in projects that reduce the carbon footprint of operations.</p> <p>Government will also be doubling the tax credit these businesses can benefit from when they invest in their own companies. In fact, Maltese enterprises will now be able to benefit from a maximum of €40,000 in tax credit when they invest in digital projects, in projects that reduce energy and water consumption or in investments that increase efficiency by reducing raw material waste or waste.</p>	Implemented	October 2021	Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant scheme has been launched in October 2021 and currently is being revised to reflect the recent Budget announcement.

	All businesses in Malta will be able to benefit from this increase, including small and medium-sized ones, the self-employed and even family businesses.			
	<p>Extension of Rent Subsidy Scheme</p> <p>In 2021, Government extended the rent subsidy incentive to reach a large number of eligible businesses. This led to about €700,000 in direct assistance to Maltese and Gozitan businesses. As from 2023, Maltese businesses will be able to benefit from the financial assistance of €50,000 instead of €25,000 per year for the first three years of this assistance. Government will also be doubling the period in which businesses will be able to benefit from this scheme from three years to a maximum of six years.</p>	Implemented	[2016]	Rent Subsidy scheme was first launched in 2016. The scheme has been recently updated to reflect the recent Budget announcement.
	<p>Schemes for the installation of solar panels and batteries for renewable energy storage</p> <p>Government will again offer schemes for the installation of solar panels and batteries for renewable energy storage.</p>	Implemented	26 February 2021	This measure continued throughout 2022 and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 1774 of 2022.
	<p>Schemes for the installation of heat pump water heaters and solar water heaters</p> <p>Government will again offer schemes for the installation of heat pump water heaters and solar water heaters.</p>	Implemented	26 April 2021 for both SWH and HPWH	<p>The heat pump water heater (HPWH) scheme continued throughout 2022 and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 1776 of 2022.</p> <p>The solar water heater (SWH) scheme continued throughout 2022 and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 1775 of 2022.</p>
	<p>Feed-In Tariff Schemes</p> <p>8MW capacity will be made available for the the Feed-In Tariff scheme for photovoltaics of less than 40kWp installed in residential and non-residential sectors, while the Feed-In Tariff scheme for households benefitting from a grant will also be extended.</p>	Announced	To be determined.	
	<p>Coordination of the implementation of environmental projects through a new agency</p> <p>The Government is committed to making the biggest investment in the environment and in the quality of people's lives. For this purpose, a new agency will be set up to coordinate the implementation of the allocation of €700 million over a period of seven years to environmental projects. This project will lead to more gardens, urban greening projects and more open spaces that can be enjoyed by Maltese and Gozitan families. The communities and the residents will be at the centre of the work of this entity while Government will also see that the private sector is given the opportunity to invest in the realisation and maintenance of these projects through PPPs and alternative financing methods.</p>	Implemented	16 January 2023	The new agency 'Project Green' was launched on 16 January 2023.

<p>CSR 1 Subpart 4: Give priority to fiscal structural reforms that will help provide financing for public policy priorities and contribute to the long-term sustainability of public finances, including, where relevant, by strengthening the coverage, adequacy and sustainability of health and social protection systems for all.</p>	<p>New free medicines and medical treatments</p> <p>Next year we will continue to introduce free medicines in the Government Formulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination that will be given to all boys born in the year 2000 and after. • Medicines for those who suffer from multiple sclerosis. • A wider range of people will benefit from medicines that treat diabetes and osteoporosis. • The specialised nutrition formulas, which are taken through intubation, will also be updated. • Persons undergoing interventions involving third-party 70 gamete donation will start benefitting from the stimulating medicines that are complementary to the services offered by the Assisted Reproductive Technology Clinic (ART). <p>The Government Formulary will also be updated to include a number of these free medicines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another fund so that urgent cases of patients with suspected or diagnosed cancer are given the necessary treatment up to the 12-week period established by the same Charter. • Chemotherapy Pumps that the patient can use in the comfort of their home, if and as prescribed by the treating consultant. 	<p>Implemented</p>	<p>October 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fund for urgent cases of patients with suspected or diagnosed cancer has already been in place for some time. Number of patients who benefitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Screening - 89 patients ◦ Other interventions - 157 patients • Chemotherapy pumps - Projected to be implemented in March 2023 • HPV vaccination - Projected to be implemented in April 2023 • Stimulating medicines that are complementary to the services offered by the Assisted Reproductive Technology Clinic - Projected to be implemented in September 2023. • Medicines for those who suffer from multiple sclerosis - Projected to be implemented in September 2024. • A wider range of people will benefit from medicines that treat diabetes and osteoporosis - Projected to be implemented in November 2024 • Specialised nutrition formulas - Projected to be implemented in December 2024.
	<p>New Services (Point of Care testing)</p> <p>To consolidate the introduction of the GU Clinics in the community, Mater Dei Hospital intends to expand existing services by providing Point of Care (POC) testing intended to treat serious cases of sexually transmitted diseases as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Announced</p>	<p>December 2023</p>	<p>Point of Care testing at the GU Clinic is already available. POC testing is envisaged to become available at the GU Clinics in the community by December 2023.</p>
	<p>New Services (Remote Patient Monitoring)</p> <p>Patients with high blood sugar levels will continue to be monitored through the Remote Patient Monitoring project.</p>	<p>Announced</p>	<p>Forecasted Implementation date: December 2023</p>	<p>In March 2022, the service was extended to 21-year-olds. It is expected that the service will be extended to 23-year-olds in December 2023.</p>
	<p>Regional Centre in Paola</p> <p>Malta's long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these is the Ċensu Moran Regional Centre in Paola.</p>	<p>Announced</p>	<p>Forecasted implementation date: June 2023</p>	<p>Currently work on this measure is ongoing. Works include partitions, M&Es, exterior paint, works on lifts, installation of the façade structures, as well as works on the roads which are in front of the hub.</p>
	<p>New Centre in Rabat, Gozo</p> <p>Malta's long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these is the new Centre in Rabat, Gozo.</p>	<p>Announced</p>	<p>Forecasted implementation date: October 2023</p>	<p>Works on this measure are ongoing. Currently, the contract to implement the pending works has been approved.</p>

	<p>Modernisation of the wards in Mount Carmel Hospital</p> <p>Malta's long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these is the modernisation of the wards in Mount Carmel Hospital.</p>	Announced	Forecasted implementation date of FW8: September 2023	Currently works are ongoing on FM 2, FW 7 and Block 1. In 2023, works will start on a new ward, FW 8.
	<p>Renovation and Modernisation of smaller health centres and community clinics</p> <p>Malta's long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these is the renovation and modernisation projects of smaller Health Centres and Community Clinics.</p>	Announced	September 2023	Renovation and modernisation are underway in a number of Health Centres and Community Clinics.
	<p>Investment in the infrastructure of the Accident & Emergency Department</p> <p>Government has announced the investment in the infrastructure of the Accident and Emergency Department.</p>	Announced	June 2024	Currently, Mater Dei Hospital is awaiting response regarding the purchasing of the land which will cater for the required machinery.
	<p>Investment in the Medical Imaging Department</p> <p>Government has announced the investment in the infrastructure of the Medical Imaging Department.</p>	Announced	November 2024	Currently, the vetting of the tenders on the new infrastructure of the Medical Imaging Department is ongoing.
	<p>Investment in the third Cardiac Catheterisation Suite</p> <p>Government has announced the investment in the infrastructure of the third Cardiac Catheterisation Suite.</p>	Announced	Forecasted implementation date: September 2024	The tender dossier regarding the Design and Build and the tender on the purchasing of the main device for the 3rd Cathsuite are being drawn up.
	<p>Mental Health (New Acute Psychiatric Care Hospital)</p> <p>In the coming years, Government will build the new Acute Psychiatric Care Hospital in the vicinity of Mater Dei to offer a specialised service that complements the one currently offered at Mount Carmel Hospital. This will be done through European funds.</p>	Announced	Forecasted implementation date: December 2026	Currently, discussions are ongoing between all parties concerned regarding the medical brief of the new psychiatric hospital.
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Increase for pensioners)</p> <p>Government announced that the increase for Maltese and Gozitan pensioners in 2023 will amount to €12.50 per week, including the COLA. This means that the Government will be granting pensioners an annual increase of €650. This translates into a total increase of €65 million in the pockets of 100,000 pensioners.</p>	Implemented	January 2023	Contributory pensioners were awarded the increase in first payment issued in January 2023 as follows: 07/01/2023 - 60,139 pensioners 14/01/2023 - 17,062 pensioners 21/01/2023 - 12,576 pensioners
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Cost of living bonus for pensioners)</p> <p>The process whereby the cost of living bonus is gradually paid in full to all pensioners who</p>	Implemented	January 2023	Contributory pensioners were awarded the increase in first payment issued in January 2023 as follows: 07/01/2023 - 60,139 pensioners 14/01/2023 - 17,062 pensioners 21/01/2023 - 12,576 pensioners

	retired after 2008, which started in 2022, will continue. Thus in 2023, 56,000 pensioners will benefit from a maximum variable additional increase of €1.50 per week, at a cost of nearly €1.7 million.			
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Further adjustment of Widows' Pensions)</p> <p>Government will continue to gradually adjust the widows' pension rate so that by the end of the legislature, it will equate to that previously received by their late spouse. With this adjustment, it is estimated that nearly 9,000 widows will benefit from additional increases in their pensions that can amount to a further €3.54 per week on average, with an expenditure of around €1.6 million.</p>	Announced	February 2023	Re-assessments were initiated in order to have widows paid the increase in the adjusted rates. It is being calculated that the first 2,500 widows will be paid with the next payment in February 2023. Subsequent adjustments will be paid in the following months.
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Entitlement to short-term benefits for workers receiving a widows' pension)</p> <p>To date, workers who are receiving a widows' pension because they become widows or widowers at a young age are not entitled to the contributory unemployment, sickness or injury on duty benefits, since they are receiving the widows' pension. As of 2023, this will change, and they may now be entitled to these benefits as well if they need them and according to the contributions they pay.</p>	Implemented	January 2023	The number of beneficiaries cannot be determined, as claims for sickness, unemployment, and injury benefits have to be submitted and assessed accordingly.
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Contribution credits for persons with mental health issues)</p> <p>The Government is aware of the problems faced by people with mental issues, even more so when these appear at a young age and before they join the workforce. These people even have problems with regard to their pension since they would have missing contributions as they might not have worked on a regular basis, and if they went through periods of illness before joining the workforce, they would not be covered by contribution credits. From 2023, Government will start giving two years of contribution credits to whoever has not worked for a period of time between the age of 18 and the age of 30 and is certified to have received, during that time, regular treatment from a psychiatrist who is or was a consultant employed by the Government.</p>	Announced	February 2023	
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (A further increase for elderly persons who do not qualify for a contributory pension)</p> <p>Government is granting an increase of €50 in the annual bonus for persons who have reached</p>	Announced	February 2023	The first payment in relation to the additional increase for elderly persons who do not qualify for a contributory pension is envisaged to be issued in February 2023.

	<p>their retirement age but who do not qualify for a pension due to insufficient contributions. In 2023, the bonus payable to those with less than five years of contributions will increase to €450 per year, while that for persons with over five years but less than ten years of contributions will increase to €550 per year. About 15,000 persons, mostly married women, will benefit from this increase for a total expenditure of almost €800,000.</p>			
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Beneficiaries of social assistance shall receive the full cost of living adjustment)</p> <p>As of 2022, persons living on social benefits started receiving the full cost of living adjustment for the first time. Undoubtedly this was a timely measure for the times we are living in today. Therefore, in 2023 these persons will once again receive the full cost of living adjustment; thus, that assistance will also increase by €9.90 per week.</p>	Implemented	January 2023	The number of eligible beneficiaries is 5,800.
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Improving the Tapering of Benefits)</p> <p>In recent years Malta has made great progress in reducing the number of persons who depend on social benefits, and more than 9,000 individuals who were living on social assistance have benefited from the incentives that were introduced, such as the tapering of benefits, and are now earning their livelihood from work. Therefore, in 2023 Government will continue to improve the tapering of benefits whereby a beneficiary shall continue to receive 10% more of the benefit in the 3 years mentioned. Thus, they will continue to receive 75% of the benefit in the first year of work, 55% of the benefit in the second year and 35% in the third year.</p>	Implemented	January 2023	The number of eligible beneficiaries is 1,200.
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Right of beneficiaries of sickness and unemployment benefits to receive non-contributory Medical Assistance)</p> <p>To date, persons who are not in employment and who are receiving either the unemployment contributory benefit or the sickness contributory benefit cannot benefit from noncontributory Medical Assistance. This will change from 2023, and therefore, they will be entitled to non-contributory Medical Assistance as well, even if they receive any of these contributory benefits and if they are not working.</p>	Implemented	January 2023	
	Other Social Protection Measures (Increase in the Carers Grant)	Announced	April 2023	When the payment in relation to the first quarter will be affected, the number of beneficiaries is envisaged to stand at 500.

	In 2021 Government started acknowledging those parents who cannot work in order to care for their child with a severe disability. At that time, benefits of €300 per year were being paid, which increased to €500 in 2022. As of 2023, this benefit will be increasing from €500 to a little over €4,500 per year and will be paid every three months.			
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Contribution credits for those on Carers Allowance)</p> <p>Persons who qualify for the Increased Carers Allowance or the Carers Allowance to date qualify for contribution credits that count towards their pension for the period they are receiving any of these allowances, provided that prior to this time, they would have paid an average of 20 social security contributions per year since reaching their 18th birthday. From 2023 Government will be lowering this average to 15 social security contributions per year as in the case of the entitlement to the two-thirds pension so that more persons who are making the sacrifice of leaving the workforce to care for an elderly relative, start benefitting from these credits.</p> <p>Despite this improvement, there might still be people who do not qualify for the credits according to this measure, and therefore, Government will still start giving those who do not qualify for credits up to 4 years of social security contribution credits.</p> <p>In addition, Government will be giving whoever is receiving any of the carer's allowance the opportunity to pay up to 5 years of missing social security contributions when they turn 59, should they need to, in order to improve their right to the retirement pension when they reach retirement age.</p>	Announced	June 2023	Potential number of beneficiaries are as follows: Increased Carers Allowance - 1282 Carers Allowance - 355
	<p>Social Protection Measures (Acknowledgement of the right to the Carer's Allowance of persons living together)</p> <p>Since there may be situations where people who are living together face legal restrictions in registering their cohabitation, Government has introduced changes so that people who have proof of having lived together as a couple for at least 10 years will be considered registered cohabitants and, therefore will be able to qualify for the Carer's Allowance.</p>	Implemented	January 2023	
	Other Social Protection Measures (Care Plan for Social Housing Tenants)	Implemented	December 2022	The care plan model has been designed in collaboration with the University of Malta. Following the completion of the design, the Housing Authority initiated a small pilot project with some tenants who are late in their rental payments.

	<p>In 2022, Government launched the idea of a care plan that covers every aspect of the lives of the beneficiaries who are allocated housing. In the coming days, Government will publish an Expression of Interest to recruit a number of professionals who will administer this personalised care plan according to the needs of each new social housing tenant</p>			<p>Through the pilot project, the design of the plan has been adapted to the needs and requirements of the applicants and the beneficiaries of social accommodation.</p> <p>Following the expiration of the Expression of Interest in January 2023, a Social Worker was engaged to work on the care plan for a period of six months, which may be extended by another six months. The pilot project shall cover around 15 beneficiaries of schemes related to social accommodation, 5 applicants who are in the application process and 10 tenants who are presently residing in public housing.</p>
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (€10,000 grant for first-time buyers)</p> <p>Government will be giving a €10,000 grant over a span of ten years to every first-time buyer who purchases a property with a value that does not exceed €500,000. This measure will apply to every purchase made from 11 January 2022 and will not be subject to a means test; it will be applicable to every commercial bank that operates in Malta and Gozo and grants loans on residential property. This initiative will give young people a strong impetus to become homeowners and will help them in the first years after making this important investment.</p>	Announced	February 2023	<p>The terms and conditions of the scheme have been drafted and the preparation for the commencement of the scheme is also complete. The training of the Housing Authority's staff and the consultation with the Commissioner for Revenue has also been performed and both entities are ready to receive applications when the scheme starts operating.</p>
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Extension of the Deposit Payment Scheme to include properties up to €225,000)</p> <p>Back in 2020, Government introduced a scheme whereby people who wanted to purchase a property and were eligible for a loan from a commercial bank but could not save enough for the 10% down payment could still buy their residential home. This was done through an interest-free loan of 10% which was being guaranteed by the Government to commercial banks. This scheme applied to the purchase of property with a maximum value of €175,000 and was successful since around 200 contracts were signed by beneficiaries of this scheme. Government would like to boost this scheme's success by increasing the maximum value by €50,000 up to a new maximum of €225,000, which better reflects the average value of property on the market.</p>	Announced	June 2023	<p>The scheme was re-designed and internal discussions are underway in order to amend the conditions of the scheme and relevant legislation.</p>
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Increase in the capping of the Rent Benefit)</p> <p>Government will raise the capping of the scheme's maximum benefit to €500 per month for a one-bedroom residence, €600 per month for a two-bedroom residence and €700 per month for a three-bedroom residence so as to update its terms and conditions to reflect today's reality better.</p>	Announced	March 2023	<p>Presently, the Rent Benefit is being given to 3,310 beneficiaries.</p>

	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (New Hope Guarantee)</p> <p>The New Hope Guarantee scheme began to operate in 2022. Under this scheme, a number of applications by people who will acquire a loan from APS Bank have already been approved. In the coming weeks, another two prominent banks will enter the scheme, while others are in advanced negotiations to participate.</p>	Implemented	January 2023	The negotiations on the scheme agreement between the Housing Authority and the two prominent local banks, MeDirect and Bank of Valletta, have been concluded and the date of the execution of the agreements has been agreed. The contract with MeDirect was signed on 24 January 2023, whilst the signing with BOV occurred on 31 January 2023.
	<p>Other Social Protection Measures (Service Pension to Widows of Disciplinary Corps Officers)</p> <p>Government will introduce the concept of service pension for five years to the widows of Disciplinary Corps officers who pass away before they complete 25 years of service or during the period between the end of service and retirement age.</p>	Announced	January 2023	<p>Inter-Ministerial discussions are underway to determine the exact terms of this measure, as well as its relevant mechanism, so as to ensure effective implementation.</p> <p>It is being envisaged to fulfil the scope of the measure by Q2 2023.</p>
	<p>Additional COLA mechanism for the vulnerable</p> <p>Despite the fact that the COLA in 2023 is among the highest, a new COLA mechanism will be introduced for the most vulnerable. Around 80,000 people will receive an additional COLA increase from the Government without any additional burden on businesses.</p>	Implemented	December 2022	The initial payment for the Additional COLA mechanism was paid on the 17 th December 2022. More than 44,000 households (equivalent to more than 87,000 households) have received this payment.
	<p>Tax credit for therapies</p> <p>In order to address the reality of parents of children with disabilities who, in addition to availing themselves of therapies offered for free by the Government, invest thousands of euros out of their own pockets every year in other therapies for their children, the Government will be giving parents a tax credit of €200 annually for each child with a disability.</p>	Announced	April 2023	This measure will have a positive social impact on parents of children with disabilities. The number of beneficiaries cannot be foreseen, as this depends on the number of persons who make use of these private services.
	<p>In-Work Benefit for employees with atypical working hours</p> <p>Towards the end of 2022, those employees whose basic pay did not exceed €20,000 and who work atypical hours in the sectors of accommodation and food service activities, administrative and support service activities, manufacturing, transportation and storage, and wholesale and retail trade, received a €150 grant. As promised, this measure will be extended to 2023, and thus these employees will be receiving another €150 cheque.</p>	Implemented	December 2022	As of December 2022, a total of 24,616 individuals residing and working in Malta in eligible sectors, whose nationalities include Maltese, EU and third-country nationals, have received the €150 grant.
	<p>New Outreach Clinic in Gozo</p> <p>New facilities will be offered through a vascular clinic, podiatry, occupational therapy,</p>	Implemented	January 2023	The clinic started to operate in January 2023.

	psychotherapy and other interventions. These shall complement the already existing services provided by the day centre for people with dementia and the night shelter within the same house.			
CSR.2020.1				
CSR 1 Subpart 1: Take all necessary measures, in line with the general escape clause of the Stability and Growth Pact, to effectively address the COVID-19 pandemic, sustain the economy and support the ensuing recovery. When economic conditions allow, pursue fiscal policies aimed at achieving prudent medium-term fiscal positions and ensuring debt sustainability, while enhancing investment.				
CSR 1 Subpart 2: Strengthen the resilience of the health system with regard to the health workforce, critical medical products and primary care.	<p>Increased assistance for those suffering from coeliac disease</p> <p>Since we are aware of the fact that food prices have also risen for those who have coeliac disease, we will be increasing the grant to these persons by €20 per month.</p>	Announced	Forecasted implementation date: January 2023	<p>There are currently 1,900 patients benefitting from the Coeliac Scheme. The number of patients increases steadily year-on-year, at a rate of 9-10%. This means that an additional 150-200 patients are expected every year.</p> <p>This measure will benefit coeliac patients as it acts as a financial supplement to mitigate the increasing costs of gluten-free products.</p>
	<p>New free medicines and medical treatments</p> <p>Next year we will continue to introduce free medicines in the Government Formulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination that will be given to all boys born in the year 2000 and after. • Medicines for those who suffer from multiple sclerosis. • A wider range of people will benefit from medicines that treat diabetes and osteoporosis. • The specialised nutrition formulas, which are taken through intubation, will also be updated. • Persons undergoing interventions involving third-party 70 gamete donation will start benefitting from the stimulating medicines that are complementary to the services offered by the Assisted Reproductive Technology Clinic (ART). <p>The Government Formulary will also be updated to include a number of these free medicines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another fund so that urgent cases of patients with suspected or diagnosed cancer are given the necessary treatment up to the 12-week period established by the same Charter. 	Implemented	October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fund for urgent cases of patients with suspected or diagnosed cancer has already been in place for some time. Number of patients who benefitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Screening - 89 patients ◦ Other interventions - 157 patients • Chemotherapy pumps - Projected to be implemented in March 2023 • HPV vaccination - Projected to be implemented in April 2023 • Stimulating medicines that are complementary to the services offered by the Assisted Reproductive Technology Clinic - Projected to be implemented in September 2023. • Medicines for those who suffer from multiple sclerosis - Projected to be implemented in September 2024. • A wider range of people will benefit from medicines that treat diabetes and osteoporosis - Projected to be implemented in November 2024 • Specialised nutrition formulas - Projected to be implemented in December 2024.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemotherapy Pumps that the patient can use in the comfort of their home, if and as prescribed by the treating consultant. 			
	<p>New Services (Point of Care testing)</p> <p>To consolidate the introduction of the GU Clinics in the community, Mater Dei Hospital intends to expand existing services by providing Point of Care (POC) testing intended to treat serious cases of sexually transmitted diseases as soon as possible.</p>	Announced	December 2023	Point of Care testing at the GU Clinic is already available. POC testing is envisaged to become available at the GU Clinics in the community by December 2023.
	<p>New Services (Remote Patient Monitoring)</p> <p>Patients with high blood sugar levels will continue to be monitored through the Remote Patient Monitoring project</p>	Announced	Forecasted Implementation date: December 2023	In March 2022, the service was extended to 21-year-olds. It is expected that the service will be extended to 23-year-olds in December 2023.
	<p>Construction of a new Blood Bank</p> <p>Malta's long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these is the project for the construction of a new Blood Bank.</p>	Announced	Forecasted implementation date: November 2027	This measure is expected to provide up-to-date standards of the highest quality in healthcare, in order to ensure that the service offered to citizens is based on international quality criteria. Works on this measure are ongoing. Currently, regular meetings are being held with the contractor and the Project Managers.
	<p>New Outpatients Building</p> <p>Malta's long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these is the project for the new Outpatients building and the Underground car park at Mater Dei Hospital.</p>	Announced	Forecasted implementation date: May 2030	Currently works on the temporary carpark are ongoing. The tender on the excavation of the site and digging of tunnels for the Service routes has been drawn up.
	<p>Regional Centre in Paola</p> <p>Malta's long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these is the Ċensu Moran Regional Centre in Paola.</p>	Announced	Forecasted implementation date: June 2023	Currently work on this measure is ongoing. Works include partitions, M&Es, exterior paint, works on lifts, installation of the façade structures, as well as works on the roads which are in front of the hub.
	<p>New Centre in Rabat, Gozo</p> <p>Malta's long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these is the new Centre in Rabat, Gozo.</p>	Announced	Forecasted implementation date: October 2023	Works on this measure are ongoing. Currently, the contract to implement the pending works has been approved.
	<p>Modernisation of the wards in Mount Carmel Hospital</p> <p>Malta's long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these is the modernisation of the wards in Mount Carmel Hospital.</p>	Announced	Forecasted implementation date of FW8: September 2023	Currently works are ongoing on FW 2, FW 7 and Block 1 (the works on these wards and Block 1 have started in 2021 and 2022, which are covered by different BMs). In 2023, works will start on a new ward, FW 8.
	<p>Renovation and Modernisation of smaller health centres and community clinics</p> <p>Malta's long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these is the renovation and modernisation projects of smaller Health Centres and Community Clinics.</p>	Announced	September 2023 It is forecasted that the implementation date of the first centre/clinic is September 2023	<p>Renovation and modernisation are underway in a number of Health Centres and Community Clinics:</p> <p><i>Birkirkara:</i> Currently works are ongoing - old IT wires were removed, the walls were scraped, the old tiles were removed whilst the new tiles have arrived. Works on the new water pipes have commenced.</p> <p><i>Rabat:</i> Currently works are ongoing. These include the continuation of works on the water pipes and the finalisation of the tender specifications regarding the replacement of window openings facing the outside.</p>

				<p><i>Qormi:</i> The second phase of the modernisation will commence in 2023.</p> <p>Works on other clinics/health centres are still to commence.</p>
	<p>Investment in the infrastructure of the Accident & Emergency Department</p> <p>Government has announced the investment in the infrastructure of the Accident and Emergency Department.</p>	Announced	<p>Forecasted implementation date:</p> <p>June 2024</p>	<p>Currently, Mater Dei Hospital is awaiting response regarding the purchasing of the land which will cater for the required machinery.</p>
	<p>Investment in the Medical Imaging Department</p> <p>Government has announced the investment in the infrastructure of the Medical Imaging Department.</p>	Announced	<p>Forecasted implementation date:</p> <p>November 2024</p>	<p>Currently, the vetting of the tenders on the new infrastructure of the Medical Imaging Department is ongoing.</p>
	<p>Investment in the third Cardiac Catheterisation Suite</p> <p>Government has announced the investment in the infrastructure of the third Cardiac Catheterisation Suite.</p>	Announced	<p>Forecasted implementation date:</p> <p>Septembuer 2024</p>	<p>The tender dossier regarding the Design and Build and the tender on the purchasing of the main device for the 3rd Cathsuite are being drawn up.</p>
	<p>Mental Health (New Acute Psychiatric Care Hospital)</p> <p>In the coming years, Government will build the new Acute Psychiatric Care Hospital in the vicinity of Mater Dei to offer a specialised service that complements the one currently offered at Mount Carmel Hospital. This will be done through European funds.</p>	Announced	<p>Forecasted implementation date:</p> <p>December 2026</p>	<p>Currently, discussions are ongoing between all parties concerned regarding the medical brief of the new psychiatric hospital.</p>
CSR.2020.2				
<p>CSR 2 Subpart 1: Consolidate short-time work arrangements and ensure the adequacy of unemployment protection for all workers.</p>	<p>Issuing of Permits under Article 42 of the Employment and Industrial Relations Act (Cap. 452)</p> <p>Temporary changes in the working conditions as a means to avoid redundancies are allowed through the issuing of permits under Article 42 of the Employment and Industrial Relations Act (Chapter 452 of the Maltese Legislation). Under such changes, short-time work arrangements involve either a partial reduction in the number of hours worked for a limited period (such as a partial suspension of the employment contract) or a temporary redundancy (such as a full suspension of the employment contract).</p>	Implemented	<p>April 2020</p>	<p>The issuing of permits under Article 42 of the Employment and Industrial Relations Act (Cap. 452), allowing employers to implement different working conditions on a temporary basis to avoid redundancies was continued in 2022. The number of requests was very low when compared with the previous two years - 162 permits were issued in 2022.</p>
<p>CSR 2 Subpart 2: Strengthen the quality and inclusiveness of education and skills development.</p>	<p>School Renovations</p> <p>Works on the construction of a new Primary School and Middle School at Victoria, Gozo, the construction of a new Primary School at Msida, the construction of a new Primary School at Rabat (Malta), and the full refurbishment of the Primary Schools at Hal Ghaxaq and Nadur, will continue during 2023.</p>	Implemented	<p>March 2020</p>	<p>The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.</p>

	<p>New campus for the Institute for Tourism Studies</p> <p>Work on the new Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS) campus will be commencing in Smart City.</p>	Implemented	November 2022	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	<p>Operational restructuring process within the Institute for Tourism Studies</p> <p>ITS is working on an operational restructuring process whereby it will be implementing its strategic plan.</p>	Implemented	March 2021	In 2021, the Institute of Tourism Studies launched its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan where it reaffirms its vision and mission whilst setting its core functions, strategic initiatives, product mix and overall purpose. Currently, discussions are underway regarding the operational restructuring within ITS.
	<p>Extension of the Institute for Tourism Studies' academic scope to programmes up to MQF 7</p> <p>ITS will be extending its academic scope to programmes up to MQF 7 accredited by the Institute itself.</p>	Announced	September 2023	<p>In May 2019, an affiliation agreement with the Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management was signed so that the ITS would offer master's degree (MQF Level 7) in Business Administration in International Hospitality Management. The master's programme commenced in October 2019.</p> <p>The accreditation process for the master's programme in Heritage Interpretation was completed in May 2022. The master's programme then commenced in October 2022. These two programmes are ongoing.</p> <p>Now that both master's programmes have successfully undergone a full cycle, the process of obtaining the extension of scope has officially started with the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority. The objective is to conclude the process by September of 2023, following which ITS will be able to accredit its own homegrown undergraduate degrees and master's programmes.</p>
	<p>Education and training of people in the film industry</p> <p>The education and training of people in this industry will strengthen the quality and competitiveness and allow more Maltese people to work in productions that choose Malta. Government wants to create a sustainable career-based film industry that continues to shift from a seasonal sector to a sector that offers work all year round.</p>	Implemented	October 2022	In October 2022, the Malta Film Commission (MFC) launched a training programme providing free courses to encourage those individuals with the necessary skills and know-how to transfer these same skills to the film industry. Initial introduction sessions and 6 specific courses (set design, electrical & sparks, plastering & painting, carpentry, welding, props & set dressing) took place in November-December 2022; more than 500 individuals attended. During 2023 a second stream of courses will be taking place. In addition to the above the MFC is currently in the process of updating the Malta Film Commission's Audio-visual Strategy document with various measures and actions for the period 2023-2030. Specific measures will focus on having a professional and skilled workforce; in addition to introducing initiatives and programmes that will encourage new entrants, support-emerging talent and create careers for the film and audio-visual sector. Measures and an action plan detailing deliverables and timeframes will be available towards end of June 2023.
	<p>Extension of the Youth Guarantee</p> <p>Government will continue the Youth Guarantee scheme with an investment of around €10 million.</p>	Implemented	28/02/2014	Jobsplus continued to implement the Youth Guarantee and invest in providing quality opportunities to eligible individuals. The reinforced Youth Guarantee highlighted the need to reinforce the mapping of the target group to enable a better understanding of the diversity of NEETs and the tailored support they are likely to require. To ensure quality services, Jobsplus will be carrying out an in-depth research and data analysis on inactive youth to extract variables and demographics for target groups of 15-24 years and 25-29 years of age. The findings of this research will allow Jobsplus to map target groups based on their training and support needs and design improved training programmes for the target group.
	<p>Extension of Training Schemes</p> <p>Government will continue training schemes such as the 'Training for Employment' and 'Investing in Skills', and the 'Access to Employment' and 'VASTE' schemes.</p>	Implemented	<p>Training Pays Scheme - 21/03/2017</p> <p>Work Exposure Scheme - 02/01/ 2016</p> <p>VASTE Programme - 23/10/2017</p>	Under the Training for Employment Project, Jobsplus will continue to administer the Training Pays Scheme and the Work Exposure Scheme (WES) to facilitate the upskilling and reskilling of the workforce in an everchanging labour market. Applications for both schemes will remain open until end July 2023, subject to availability of funds. The eligibility criteria for WES remained unchanged as the scheme targets unemployed and inactive persons aged between 20 and 64 years and who never participated in this scheme before. With regard to the

				<p>Training Pays Scheme, while the eligibility criteria remained the same, there was a change in the grant value as the capping was increased from €1,000 or €3,000 to €5,000, irrespective of the choice of the training programme.</p> <p>Moreover, the Investing in Skills will continue to offer employers the opportunity to invest in human capital and upskill their workforce through financial aid until mid-2023. The Access to Employment Scheme (which will recommence in Q1 2023) and the VASTE Programme will continue to be available to vulnerable jobseekers in order to facilitate their integration in the labour market.</p>												
	<p>Extension of Scheme 9</p> <p>Scheme 9 will also be extended so that eligible children may benefit from all the categories of support available under Scheme 9.</p>	Implemented	Start date: October 2022	Scheme 9 started in 2017. However, in October 2022 it was extended so that children can benefit from all the categories of support that they need.												
	<p>A new laptop for each seventh-year student</p> <p>The one-tablet-per-child initiative will be extended, and a new laptop will be given to each seventh-year student starting from the next scholastic year.</p>	Announced	Start date: Scholastic year 2023/24	Laptop will be given to students in Year 7 in scholastic year 2023/24. The laptop will include digital learning content. The One Tablet per Child Initiative will remain for students in Years 4 to 6.												
	<p>Strengthening the existing scholarship and tax credit programmes</p> <p>The existing scholarship and tax credit programmes will be strengthened for those students who wish to continue their studies at Master and Doctorate levels, also using funds under the European Social Fund.</p>	Implemented	Start date: June 2022	<p>Between 2021 and 2022, the scholarship budget was increased and the capping of funds available to each student also increased, as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scholarship</th> <th>Aspect</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme (TESS)</td> <td>MQF7 blended, part-time, full-time or distance learning</td> <td>€8,000</td> <td>€10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malta Sports Scholarships Scheme</td> <td>Scholarship Awardees with a disability</td> <td>No benefit</td> <td>€1,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scholarship	Aspect	2021	2022	Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme (TESS)	MQF7 blended, part-time, full-time or distance learning	€8,000	€10,000	Malta Sports Scholarships Scheme	Scholarship Awardees with a disability	No benefit	€1,000
Scholarship	Aspect	2021	2022													
Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme (TESS)	MQF7 blended, part-time, full-time or distance learning	€8,000	€10,000													
Malta Sports Scholarships Scheme	Scholarship Awardees with a disability	No benefit	€1,000													
	<p>Fellowship scheme for educators to participate in a fellowship for Masters in Education (Poverty and Social Exclusion)</p> <p>The fellowship scheme for educators to participate in a fellowship for Masters in Education (Poverty and Social Exclusion) was launched in order to target early leaving from education and training (ELET) within colleges.</p>	Implemented	Start date: August 2021	9 educators from diverse colleges in Malta and Gozo are benefitting from this fellowship. They have completed the taught element of the Masters and are now working towards completing their dissertation. Masters will be completed by end June 2023.												
	<p>Continuous Assessment in SEC exams</p> <p>Following the introduction of continuous assessments in the Primary, Middle and Secondary Years, continuous assessment will start to contribute towards SEC/SEAC results from the May 2025 session. Therefore, students in Year 9 during scholastic year 2022/23 will be the first cohort whose school results will contribute towards their SEC/SEAC results.</p>	Implemented	Preparation: 2019 First SEC/SEAC exam session: May 2025	<p>The new SEC syllabi are written using learning outcomes and assessment criteria, which clarify learning goals for both students and teachers. Moreover, the new SEC syllabi are divided into three levels and allow for progression, hence widening the range of abilities which are assessed by the MATSEC Examinations Board.</p> <p>Coursework, which is work set and assessed by teachers as per instructions in the relevant syllabus, contributes to a percentage of the global mark in all subjects. The implementation of the new SEC syllabi will consist of a number of assignments (coursework) that will be conducted during Years 9, 10 and 11. The assignments may be done during lessons in schools or assigned as homework. Teachers will conduct 3 to 5 assignments throughout Years 9, 10 and 11, as per syllabus of each SEC subject. A final controlled assessment will take place at the end of Year 11, set and marked by the MATSEC Examination Board. The final SEC mark for each subject will be based on a combination of the mark of the final controlled assessment and the coursework.</p>												

				<p>Vocational subjects will be assessed through two assignments and a controlled assessment annually. The controlled assessment is set by the MATSEC Examinations Board. The assessments are internally and externally verified.</p> <p>This change will enable students to be assessed at MQF 1-3, rather than solely MQF3 (which was the case in the previous SEC system).</p>
	<p>New Lifelong Learning courses in 21st century skills</p> <p>In academic year 2022/23, lifelong training courses were initiated to facilitate the uptake of 21st century skills. These include new courses in digital literacy, media literacy and personal finance.</p>	Implemented	Courses started in October 2022	<p>In 2022/23 these courses have attracted the following applicants:</p> <p>Personal Finance – Managing your Money: 73</p> <p>Digital skills – Learn to use your Smartphone and/or Tablet: 87</p> <p>Digital Skills – Getting started with social media and online communication: 16</p> <p>Digital Skills – Learn to use the Internet and email: 78</p> <p>Digital Skills – Getting started with online shopping: 9</p>
	<p>Lifelong Learning opens eLearning College</p> <p>In academic year 2019/2020, the Lifelong Learning Unit offered online learning courses for the first time, in response to the closure of education establishments to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Since 2020/21, synchronous online learning courses have been a permanent fixture in the lifelong learning prospectus. In academic year 2020/21, Learning Box was also introduced, offering asynchronous learning to adults who are time-poor by introducing flexibility of place and time.</p>	Announced	<p>Start date: 8 March 2020</p> <p>Launch of eCollege website: 01.02.2023</p>	eCollege has been launched as is accessible on https://ecollege.edu.mt/
	<p>Continuous Assessment in Lifelong Learning courses</p> <p>In order to make learning more accessible by reducing exam anxiety, in 2020/21 continuous assessment was introduced to accredited homegrown courses. In 2020/21, continuous assessment comprised 40% of the global mark, which was increased to 60% in academic year 2021/22. In 2022/23, Government is working towards removing summative assessment altogether, therefore continuous assessment will comprise 100% of the student's final mark.</p>	Implemented	<p>Start date: Introduction of continuous assessment: 2020</p> <p>Elimination of summative assessment: 2023</p> <p>of May of June</p>	The Lifelong Learning Unit is finalising documents required by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority for submission and approval.
	<p>Measure 18 – Research on children's wellbeing</p> <p>Education and wellbeing go hand in hand: learning cannot take place if children feel unwell; and receiving an education is conducive to ensuring long-term wellbeing. To this end, the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR), and the Superintendent of Public Health worked together on the following studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WHO Health Behaviour in School-aged Children study (HBSC); - A survey on the wellbeing of children in Years 7, 9 and 11, focusing on wellbeing outcomes related to education; and 	Implemented	Start date: Q3/2021	<p>Data collection for the HBSC and wellbeing studies took place jointly, between January and March 2022. The results of the HBSC study are being analysed by the WHO, while the wellbeing study results will be analysed by the MEYR Research Unit in 2023.</p> <p>Data collection for the BMI study took place between March and June 2022. The first report was published on 30 December 2022. Link to the BMI Study report: https://researchandinnovation.gov.mt/en/Documents/Childhood%20Obesity%20in%20Malta.pdf</p>

	- A national study on childhood obesity among schoolchildren attending Kindergarten 2 to Year 11.			
	<p>Catch-up Educational Sessions</p> <p>Since Summer 2021, catch-up classes were introduced to revise work done during the 2020/21 scholastic year. Catch-up classes continue to be offered in the Summer and on Saturdays throughout the scholastic year. Classes are currently offered in core subjects, that is Mathematics, Maltese, English and Science (or Physics in the case of secondary school). Attending catch-up classes is not mandatory, but students are encouraged to sign up voluntarily.</p>	Implemented	Start date: May 2020	Summer Catch-up classes 2022 - 783 students attending Saturday Catch-up classes during scholastic year 2022/23 - 414 students attending
	<p>Guidance Unit set up within the Lifelong Learning Unit</p> <p>The Lifelong Learning Unit set up a Guidance Unit, which aims to support learners (aged 15+) to be able to access and complete the course. Special arrangements are made for facilitating such access and completion.</p>	Implemented	Start date: February 2020	The Guidance Unit was set up in February 2020. Link: https://lifelonglearning.gov.mt/guidance/
	<p>Measure 21 - National Strategic Action Plan for Further and Higher Education 2030</p> <p>This National Strategic Action Plan was published for public consultation in December 2022. It is based on innovative, inclusive quality-driven further and higher education, which encourage persons to engage in upskilling and reskilling through the lifecourse.</p>	Announced	Public consultation: 09.12.2022-09.01.2023	<p>The feedback (10 submissions) collected through the public consultation is currently being analysed and amendments will subsequently be made to the Strategic Action Plan.</p> <p>Link: https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MEDE/Documents/MFHEA%20National%20Strategic%20Plan%202030.pdf</p>
	<p>National Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care Services (0-3 years)</p> <p>These Standards superseded the National Standards for Child Day Care Facilities (2006). The new Standards were published together with the Registration Criteria for Childcare Settings, whereby education quality and environmental quality work together. An implementation plan was also developed for the gradual implementation of the Standards.</p>	Implemented	Published: October 2021	<p>Link to the Standards: https://education.gov.mt/en/resources/Documents/Policy%20Documents/MFED%20National%20Standards%20ECEC%20Oct21.pdf</p> <p>Link to the registration criteria: https://education.gov.mt/en/dqse/Documents/publications/MEDE%20Registration%20Criteria%200-3yo%20Oct21.pdf</p> <p>This measure impacts all childcare services (165 childcare centres as of January 2023) and all children who attend them. The share of children aged between 0 and 2 attending childcare: 37.5% (2017), 32.1% (2018), 37.8% (2019), 29.7% (2020) and 24.0% (2021) (source: NSO).</p>
	<p>Guidelines for Quality Assurance - For Online Learning Providers In Malta</p> <p>The Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) launched these Guidelines in September 2021, covering 8 domains: (i) leadership and management; (ii) staffing profile and professional development; (iii) review and improvement; (iv) resources; (v) student information, experience and support; (vi) assessment and integrity; (vii) learning outcomes; and (viii) curriculum design.</p>	Implemented	Published: September 2021	<p>Link to the Guidelines: https://mfhea.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Guidelines-for-FHEI-Digital-Version-Lower-Def.pdf</p> <p>These Guidelines apply to all programmes that include online/blended provision. By 31 December 2021, the MFHEA had received 23 applications from already licensed education institutions to start providing blended or fully online learning and it had approved 10 of them. The rest of the applications were carried forward to 2022 and approved. 1 new license was issued for online/blended provision.</p> <p>During 2022, 6 new licenses were issued for online/blended provision.</p>

	<p>Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) - Definitions, Principles and Guidelines</p> <p>The MFHEA published this guidance document to ensure that institutions' Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policies and procedures are appropriate and beneficial to all learners. This includes RPL procedures, accessing RPL, support for candidates, assessing RPL claims and completing the RPL process.</p>	Implemented	Published: May 2021	<p>Link to the Guidelines: https://mfhea.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Recognition-of-Prior-Learning-Guidelines-4.pdf</p> <p>This work was part of the ECVET 2020 Project co-funded by Erasmus+. The MFHEA has collaborated with the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework Partnership through events and the issuing of a scoping report, as well as the final RPL guidelines. This relates to the validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL) with reference to learning outcomes.</p> <p>MFHEA processed 27 applications for RPL policy evaluation up to 20 January 2023, 20 of which were approved.</p>
	<p>Early Childhood Education and Care National Policy Framework for Malta and Gozo (0-7 years)</p>	Implemented	<p>Public consultation: 29.05.2021-02.07.2021</p> <p>Publication: October 2021</p>	<p>Link to the document: https://education.gov.mt/en/resources/Documents/Policy%20Documents/NPF%20Early%20Childhood%20Education%20and%20Care%20-%20A4%20Oct21.pdf</p> <p>This policy impacts all children aged 0-7 years attending education establishments.</p> <p>The share of children aged between 0 and 2 attending childcare: 37.5% (2017), 32.1% (2018), 37.8% (2019), 29.7% (2020) and 24.0% (2021) (source: NSO).</p> <p>The share of children between the age of three and the starting age of compulsory primary education who participated in early childhood education and care in Malta were: 99.4% (2013), 95.5% (2014), 96.9% (2015), 95.0% (2016), 93.2% (2017), 93.8% (2018), 91.9% (2019), 89.1% (2020) (Source: Eurostat)</p>
	<p>University of Malta Strategic Plan 2020-2025</p> <p>The University of Malta Strategic Plan outlines its commitment to serve students, scholarship and society in a sustainable manner that is responsive to this country's present and emergent needs. It outlines 60 main commitments in 7 strategic themes: (i) Learning and Teaching; (ii) Research and Knowledge Transfer; (iii) Societal Factors and Impact; (iv) Enterprise and Industry Impact; (v) National Impact; (vi) International Outlook; Sustainability; and (vii) Services and Administrative Support.</p>	Implemented	Start date: 01.01.2022	<p>The Plan was approved by the Senate on 30 May 2019 and by the Council on 21 June 2019. Since then, the University has engaged in an intensive implementation programme. The following areas have been implemented: developing Infrastructure for online learning and assessment; establishing the doctoral school; enacting new policies for equity and inclusion; providing support on mental health; engaging with industry through ongoing conferences; creating summer internships for students; promoting the language policy; improving the University's ranking; increasing the marketing of programmes abroad; increasing sustainable measures; upgrading of administrative support on welfare, research, physical space, technology, library, communications and staff development.</p> <p>Link: https://www.um.edu.mt/about/strategy/downloadstrategicplan/</p>
	<p>The MCAST Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 aims to develop an open community of learners and workers that will make our country more competitive, sustainable, and greener. It includes providing support to students and staff. The Strategic Plan identifies 3 transversal themes, 7 strategic objectives, 41 initiatives and 184 measures.</p>	Implemented	Published: 17.11.2021	<p>Link: https://www.mcast.edu.mt/wp-content/uploads/MCAST_StrategicPlan_2022-2027_17_11_final.pdf</p>
	<p>Language Policy for the Primary Years in Malta and Gozo</p> <p>The Language Policy for the Junior Years promotes the bilingual development in Maltese and English of pupils (7-11 years) in Malta and Gozo. It is intended to provide national guidelines for bilingual education for this age group.</p>	Implemented	Published: 10.01.2023	<p>This will impact all primary school students aged 7-11 (total primary students in Years 1-6 in scholastic year 2020/21: 26,941). Training to parents, COPE Sessions and literacy support to educators have been carried out and will continue on an ongoing basis. Other initiatives will be promoted through the Language Policy Unit at the National Literacy Agency, with support from language teams within schools.</p>

				Link: https://education.gov.mt/en/resources/Documents/Policy%20Documents/A%20Language%20Policy%20for%20the%20Junior%20Years.pdf
	<p>Review of key policy documents in education</p> <p>A committee was set up to review the Framework for the Education Strategy for Malta: 2014-2024 and develop a new Strategic Framework for Education and Training 2030.</p> <p>This committee led to the establishment, in 2022, of the National Curriculum Framework (2012) Review Board and four thematic committees dedicated to key areas: (i) prevention of early leaving from education and training; (ii) lifelong learning; (iii) literacy; and (iv) digitalization and simplification.</p> <p>The Learning Outcomes Framework was introduced in 2015 and started being implemented gradually from 2018. In 2023, the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR) launched a review of the implementation of the Learning Outcomes Framework.</p>	Implemented	Start date: July 2022	<p>The Committee brings together all stakeholders in education (state, church and independent schools; workers' unions; further and higher education establishments) with a view to improve communication between stakeholders, provide strategic focus and direction, as well as outline the strategic priorities of the National Curriculum Framework.</p> <p>The National Curriculum Framework Review Board is tasked with reviewing the existing National Curriculum Framework and creating synergy between the National Curriculum Framework and the Learning Outcomes Framework.</p> <p>Three of the four thematic committees are respectively tasked with reviewing and making recommendations on the future policies, while the Committee on digitalisation and simplification is tasked with creating Malta's first strategy for digitalisation and simplification in education.</p> <p>The Ministry for Education set up 4 working group to review the Learning Outcomes Framework. Each working group was focused on one of the following school years: Years 102, Years 3-6, Years 7-8, and Years 9-11.</p> <p>Open-ended research was carried out with educators at Maria Regina College. This fed into the design of two closed-ended surveys, one for parents and one for educators (all grades) across state, independent and Church schools. These surveys consider respondents' experiences of and attitudes towards the Learning Outcomes Framework, the related assessment tasks and reporting system. Data collection of both surveys took place in January 2023.</p> <p>The aim of this exercise is to present a report on the findings, with recommendations for the way forward.</p>
	<p>Introduction of Learning Outcomes in Years 1, 5 and 9</p> <p>The Learning Outcomes Framework was launched in 2015 and its gradual roll-out in schools started in 2018. Progress is as follows:</p> <p>2018/19 - Kindergarten 1 and Years 3 and 7 2019/20 - Kindergarten 2 and Years 4 and 8 2022/23 - Years 1, 5 and 9.</p>	Implemented	Start date: September 2022	COVID-19 and related disruption to education establishments (school closure, increased absence) caused a delay in the implementation of the Learning Outcomes Framework. Implementation resumed in scholastic year 2022/23.
	<p>A Bilingual Glossary of Mathematics Terms: The Early and Junior years published for consultation</p> <p>Launched by the National Literacy Agency (NLA) and the Department for Learning and Assessment Programmes (DLAP), the Glossary aims to provide words and expressions that can be used as part of bilingual communication of mathematics at the Early years and Junior levels of education (ages 3-11 years).</p>	Implemented	Announced for consultation: 07.07.2022	Consultation meetings with school representatives took place in October 2022.
	<p>Data Warehouse Project</p> <p>A Data Warehouse is being set up, to systemically store data from various</p>	Implemented	Tender submission deadline: 30.08.2022	Tender has been evaluated and bidders notified of the result.

	educational data sources within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR), enabling historical and predictive analysis. This measure pertains to phase 2 of the Education aspect outlined in The Ultimate AI Launchpad - A Strategy and Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Malta 2030.		Tender evaluation appeal period closes in January 2023	
	New Autism Units within Middle Schools Two new Autism Units (physical spaces) have been completed and became operational in Middle Schools (Handaq and Ta' Paris). Such units are available for student usage as required.	Implemented	Started being used: September 2021	A maximum of 16 students may benefit from the first two Autism Units set up. Two teachers and six Learning Support Educators have received additional training in inclusive pedagogy and in the delivery of a functional curriculum, with at least one teacher and two Learning Support Educators in each class. The training of teachers and LSEs was delivered in-house by practitioners at the National School Support Services (NSSS).
	MCAST Apprenticeship Recovery Plan This plan allowed MCAST to encourage more companies to recruit students in apprenticeship programmes.	Implemented	15 June 2021	This measure impacted around 1,700 students. It came to an end on 31 December 2022.
	New Multi-Sensory Learning Rooms in Primary Schools Two new multi-sensory learning rooms (MSLR) (physical spaces equipped with equipment and trained education personnel) were established in Qawra Primary and St Joachim Marsascala Primary Schools.	Implemented	Started being used: March 2022	Completed
	Primary Students' Assessment Reform As from scholastic year 2022/2023, alternative examination papers for Maltese and English subjects will be discontinued for primary students with learning difficulties in Years 4 and 5.	Announced	Start date: June 2023	This measure will affect all students with learning difficulties attending Years 4-6 in the primary years (13,508 in academic year 2020/21). The alternative annual examinations papers for the Maths subject will be discontinued as of 2023/2024.
	Lessons on Demand for all students in Malta (TELESKOLA) A repository of recorded lessons, available online free of charge, were created covering curriculum elements applicable from pre-primary level (kindergarten 1) to secondary Year 11. Teleskola started to assist students impacted by school closures to stem the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it now remains a valuable source of revision and self-directed learning.	Implemented	Scholastic year 2020/2021	More than 10,500 lessons covering all subjects taught in Maltese schools to students in kindergarten 1 to Year 11 (58,047 students in 2020/21) are available online, free of charge, for all students. Link: https://teleskola.mt/
CSR.2020.3				
CSR 3 Subpart 1: Ensure effective implementation of liquidity support to affected businesses, including the self-employed.				
CSR 3 Subpart 2: Front-load mature public investment projects				
CSR 3 Subpart 3: and promote private investment to foster the economic recovery.	Digital Innovation Hub	Announced	1 January 2023	The Grant Agreement (GA) for EU funding has been signed and is effective from 1 st January 2023. Progress is being registered to achieve the deliverables and

	A very important development in 2022 was the European Commission's decision to have Malta's proposal for a Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) project financed by European funds. The DIH aims to provide digital transformation opportunities to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Start-ups, through technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Cyber High-Performance Computing (HPC) and cloud solutions.			milestones in the GA. A cost-benefit analysis for the premises to host the DIH is currently being conducted.
	Business Enhance Scheme In 2023, Government will continue to offer cash grant opportunities with an investment of about €40 million to small and medium-sized enterprises under the Business Enhance scheme.	Implemented	To be determined.	3 schemes were designed, and a presentation was given to the Monitoring Committee. Further schemes are being designed to ensure the full use of funding available.
	Business Enhance Scheme (Digitalisation) The private sector will continue to be incentivised in this area through grants, which shall cover self-employed persons who operate on a small scale under the Business Enhance programme with a €15 million grant.	Implemented	June 2022	Schemes were launched in June 2022. A total of 3 calls under each of the 2 schemes were launched and concluded in 2022. Schemes were launched on an open rolling basis in January 2023.
	InvestEU Malta will also be participating in the InvestEU initiative with other opportunities for enterprises. The financial instruments for businesses with European funds will continue in the coming years.	Announced	13 January 2023	The Contribution Agreement between Malta and the Commission was signed on 13 January 2023, in line with commitment undertaken in the Partnership Agreement for the said Agreement to be in place not later than 15 January 2023.
	Venture Capital Fund A study on the establishment of a Venture Capital Fund is ongoing. The objective is to have a framework for Venture Capital funds aimed at helping industries establish themselves in Malta.	Announced	01/10/2023	After allocation of an initial funding budget, discussions on an assistance programme are being undertaken with the European Investment Bank which will allow for this programme to be developed and launched.
	Adequate Infrastructure for Industries (New plots for various clusters) During 2023, Government will create new plots for various clusters through INDIS Malta to meet the ever-increasing demands. Apart from that, work will begin on various extensions of factories established in Malta.	Announced	01/12/2023	INDIS has earmarked an area at Hal Far, designated as HHF039, for the development of a new multi-level industrial cluster. This project is intended to be developed as a Public Private Partnership on a design build, maintain and operate basis. INDIS is aiming to be in a position to select a suitable economic operator by end 2023.
	Adequate Infrastructure for Industries (Factory extensions) During 2023, work will begin on various extensions of factories established in Malta.	Announced	01/01/2023	INDIS shall commence work on the building of a major extension of the Trelleborg complex at Hal Far during the first quarter of 2023, with the aim of completing all civil works by end 2023. This extension shall incorporate an underground carpark, administrative, logistical and manufacturing facilities.
	Maritime Infrastructure The Government has just signed a contract to begin extension works on the Pinto and Lascaris Wharves with the aim of having a	Announced	August 2022	Contractor has mobilised and works started on site.

	straight wharf for the docking of large ships of around 330 metres.			
	<p>Incentives for long-stay tourism in Gozo</p> <p>The market of tourists who spend the winter months in Malta is increasing, and this is seen as something that will continue to grow. Therefore, together with the Gozo Tourism Association, Government will launch an incentive scheme to attract this type of tourism to the island of Gozo in partnership with tour operators so that Gozo enjoys more tourism in the low season.</p>	Announced	November 2023	The design of implementation of the initiative is well underway following a number of stakeholder discussions that took place. In the months before the implementation of the scheme, i.e. November 2023, the involved stakeholders shall continue their preparatory efforts collectively which are necessary for the devising of this incentive. The scheme shall be launched at the commencement of the shoulder period, up till March 2024.
	<p>Investment in the infrastructure of the Malta Film Studios</p> <p>The film industry continues to create job opportunities and attract more investment. Investment in the infrastructure of the Malta Film Studios will continue with the building of the first sound stages in Malta.</p>	Implemented	January 2021	During the past 2 years, a lot of investment has been made to drastically improve the infrastructure of the Malta Film Studios, namely, the building of the new offices, the procurement and installation of new compressors and the building of a new soundstage. Progress is ongoing to implement the Master Plan.
	<p>Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant scheme</p> <p>Malta Enterprise will be doubling its financial assistance in the form of cash grants to all Maltese companies that invest in digital and sustainable projects. In fact, the grant will be covering 50% of the eligible investment, up to a maximum of €100,000.</p> <p>Gozitan businesses and start-ups will continue to benefit from an additional 10% in financial assistance in the form of a tax credit, and this grant can be doubled to 20% if the companies invest in projects that reduce the carbon footprint of operations.</p> <p>Government will also be doubling the tax credit these businesses can benefit from when they invest in their own companies. In fact, Maltese enterprises will now be able to benefit from a maximum of €40,000 in tax credit when they invest in digital projects, in projects that reduce energy and water consumption or in investments that increase efficiency by reducing raw material waste or waste.</p> <p>All businesses in Malta will be able to benefit from this increase, including small and medium-sized ones, the self-employed and even family businesses.</p>	Implemented	October 2021	Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant scheme has been launched in October 2021 and currently is being revised to reflect the recent Budget announcement.
	<p>Extension of Rent Subsidy Scheme</p> <p>In 2021, Government extended the rent subsidy incentive to reach a large number of eligible businesses. This led to about €700,000 in</p>	Implemented	[2016]	Rent Subsidy scheme was first launched in 2016. The scheme has been recently updated to reflect the recent Budget announcement.

	<p>direct assistance to Maltese and Gozitan businesses. As from 2023, Maltese businesses will be able to benefit from the financial assistance of €50,000 instead of €25,000 per year for the first three years of this assistance. Government will also be doubling the period in which businesses will be able to benefit from this scheme from three years to a maximum of six years.</p>			
	<p>Concession for the transfer of family businesses</p> <p>The concession on a reduction in stamp duty from 5% to 1.5% when family businesses are transferred inter vivos to their children or to younger generations, is being extended once more.</p>	Implemented	1 April 2017	This measure started being implemented on 1 st April 2017 and has now been extended to 31 st December 2023.
CSR 3 Subpart 4: Focus investment on the green and digital transition, in particular on clean and efficient production and use of energy,	<p>Grand Harbour Clean Air Project</p> <p>At the moment, some of the most ambitious environmental projects in our country are related to installing systems that allow large vessels, such as passenger or cargo ships, to switch off their engines while they are berthed in our ports. These will instead connect directly to the national grid. This project will help to reduce air pollution and improve the quality of life of people living in the South of our country and around the Grand Harbour. Work on the first phase of the project covering the Northern Part of the Grand Harbour and Boiler Wharf is ongoing and proceeding at a good pace, and is expected to be completed in 2023. This project is co-funded under CEF Transport with an eligible investment €25,771,035.</p> <p>With an investment of €50 million, the second phase of the project for the Southern Part of the Grand Harbour aims to extend the supply of shore-side electricity to ships berthing in this area, including Ras Hanžir, Laboratory and Magazine Wharves as well as two quays located within the Palumbo Shipyard (these being Dock 6 also known as China Dock and Parlatorio quay) and Mediterranean Maritime Hub (MMH).</p>	Announced	<p>Works on site started in November 2020.</p> <p>Tender for the second phase issued in August 2022</p>	The first phase of the project is expected to be completed in 2023, while the tender for second phase of the project is currently under evaluation and results are expected in May 2023.
	<p>Provision of shore-to-ship electricity at the Malta Freeport</p> <p>Further to the project being undertaken in the Grand Harbour, progress has been made on the process to implement this type of project in the Freeport as well.</p>	Implemented	30 September 2022	<p>Two quays within the Freeport Terminals, namely North Quay Terminal 1 (NQT1) and North Quay Terminal 2 (NQT2) are each to be provided with a bi-directional High Voltage Shore Connection (HVSC) system for use by container ships whilst at berth. These systems will permit berthed container vessels to import/export power to/from the national grid.</p> <p>Tenders were awarded and project is in implementation stage. It is projected to be on stream during the last quarter of 2024.</p>
	<p>Renovation in Private Sector Buildings</p> <p>The grant scheme under the RRP for the climate-friendly renovation of commercial</p>	Implemented	June 2022	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.

	buildings in the private sector with a value of around €20 million will continue during 2023.			
	<p>Feed-In Tariff Schemes</p> <p>8MW capacity will be made available for the Feed-In Tariff scheme for photovoltaics of less than 40kWp installed in residential and non-residential sectors, while the Feed-In Tariff scheme for households benefitting from a grant will also be extended.</p>	Announced	To be determined.	
CSR 3 Subpart 5: sustainable transport,	<p>Road Infrastructure</p> <p>From 2018 to the end of 2022, Government will have invested a total of €507 million in road infrastructure improvements in Malta. Several large infrastructural projects were completed with this investment.</p>	Implemented	January 2018	<p>Mrieħel Underpass and Ħal Kirkop Tunnels have been completed.</p> <p>Airport Intersection Project and the Luqa Junction: The Grade Separation Junctions at WA 24 MIA Junction and WA 23 Dinitrol Junction along the TEN-T Core Section of Civil Aviation Avenue, Luqa, Malta project is being funded through CEF Transport with total eligible cost of €25,703,462. Works are ongoing.</p> <p>Work is ongoing on residential roads.</p>
	<p>Electrification of the public transport fleet</p> <p>Government will continue to electrify the public transport fleet with an investment of millions of euro. A large amount of the fleet will consist of electric vehicles.</p>	Implemented	December 2022	<p>In line with the RRP, Government is committed to support the part replacement of its public transport fleet (Euro 5) with electric buses. An MOU between Government and Operator has been signed in December 2022. Now discussions are ongoing to set the implementation arrangements for the purchase of the 102 e-buses. €34 million from the RRP shall cover the difference in price between a conventional bus and an e-bus for 102 buses. Additional investment by the Government shall be carried out to ensure the availability of adequate infrastructure for the charging of the e-buses, discussions are ongoing on this part with operator, Enemalta and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>The operator is in the process of acquiring additional 25 new electric buses, which are to be put in service in the coming weeks to increase the frequency of bus services.</p> <p>Two 100% electric, zero-emission buses have already been added as part of the scheduled public transport fleet in Malta to serve as test base for when the roll out of more e-buses will materialise.</p> <p>Discussions are also ongoing in order to finalise plans on the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of areas where buses will be charged • Reviewing Infrastructural requirements (to put up charging stations) • Reviewing possibilities of financing infrastructural requirements • Reviewing contractual changes required. <p>Buses expected to be deployed on service by Q2 2025.</p>
	<p>Grant for the purchase of new electric vehicles</p> <p>The financial grant aiming to incentivise the acquisition of new electricity-powered vehicles will be renewed, and whoever buys a new electric vehicle, including motorcycles, will be entitled to an €11,000 grant, which would go up to a maximum of €12,000 if the vehicle scrappage scheme is availed of as well. The same applies to the scheme which incentivises the purchase of mopeds, pedelecs and bicycles</p>	Announced	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.

	assisted by an electric motor. The total expenditure on these grants will be €20 million.			
	Renewed financial grant for scrappage of polluting vehicles in Gozo The financial grant of the scheme for the scrappage of polluting cars in Gozo will remain at €2,000.	Implemented	October 2021	Scheme shall be re-launched in March 2023.
	Extension of other schemes promoting cleaner vehicles In 2023, electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles with a battery autonomy of 50km or more will still be exempted from registration tax and from payment of the annual road licence fee for a period of 5 years from the date of first registration.	Implemented	1 January 2023	This measure is being implemented. It will help to encourage and boost the uptake of cleaner vehicles and contributes towards mitigating CO ₂ levels of pollution.
	Extension of schemes for installation of photovoltaic panels on vehicles The scheme whereby vehicles such as minibuses, coaches and trucks that have photovoltaic panels installed on top are given a grant up to a maximum of €900 will be extended.	Announced	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	Grants application for this measure will be published in March.
	Extension of schemes for installation of diesel particle filters (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems on vehicles The scheme whereby minibus, coach and truck operators install diesel particle filters (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems will be extended.	Implemented	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	Grants applications for this measure will be published in March.
CSR 3 Subpart 6: waste management,	EcoHive Project (Multi-Material Recovery Facility) While extensive work is continuing on the EcoHive projects, the Multi-Material Recovery Facility will also start operating in Hal Far by the beginning of 2023. This will help in the recycling of various materials which otherwise would end up in the landfill.	Implemented	May 2019	Works on this project are nearly ready and the facility is expected to be commissioned during quarter 1 of 2023.
	EcoHive Project (Organic Processing Plant) In 2023 Government will be launching a project of around €50 million on an Organic Processing Plant in order to be more efficient in this area and maximise the use of waste in Malta. In fact, this plant will yield both electrical energy and compost for the agricultural sector.	Announced	June 2020	Currently the basic design is being finalised in preparation for permit submission. Works are also ongoing on the EIA study.
	New Gate Fees New gate fees will be introduced from 1st January 2023 to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in the landfill and to encourage increased waste separation.	Implemented	1 January 2023	The new gate fees were introduced in January 2023.
	Material Recovery Facility	Implemented	January 2023	

	As from January 2023, the Material Recovery Facility in Magħtab will start accepting and processing waste, which will help to continue increasing the recycling rates.			
	<p>Skip Management Facility</p> <p>In the coming years, a Skip Management Facility will be built through which around 47,000 tonnes of bulky waste will be reduced from the landfill. This will instead begin to be separated and processed in order to meet the recycling targets.</p>	Announced	November 2022	The planning application process with the Planning Authority is underway for the Skip Management Facility (SMF) complex. The works tender for the first phase of the SMF project, namely the Land Build-up Works, was recently published. It is planned that works should start during quarter 2 of 2023.
CSR 3 Subpart 7: research and innovation.	<p>Technology Extension Support Programme</p> <p>In 2023 investment in research and innovation will be increased, including through a new Technology Extension Support programme with an investment of €200,000, where through the participation of the private sector, innovative projects in various areas will be financed.</p>	Announced	May 2023	The Technology Extension Support Programme will form part of the FUSION portfolio. FUSION supports local Research and Innovation (R&I), as well as providing the necessary support for researchers and technologists to turn their innovative ideas into a market-ready reality. The Technology Extension Support Programme will incentivise the formation of collaborations between Higher Education Institutes and the private sector through small-scale projects focusing on incremental innovation. The Scheme is envisaged to be launched in May 2023. As of January 2023, consultation sessions with relevant stakeholders have been held and the programme is being drafted.
	<p>Extension of participation in the Horizon Europe programme</p> <p>Government will also extend support to participation in the Horizon Europe programme.</p>	Announced	2 January 2023	<p>The Horizon Europe Support Schemes are aimed at enhancing the participation of Maltese entities in the Horizon Europe Programme. The 2023 Support Schemes are split into 4 different measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horizon Networking Scheme - this scheme supports the participation of Maltese researchers to attend Horizon Europe brokerage events and potentially meet with possible project consortium coordinators (launched in January 2023). 2. European Innovation Council (EIC) Support Scheme - this measure aims at supporting potential EIC applicants by providing pitch training and coaching as well as proposal writing support to start-ups and SMEs with potential in participating in the EIC Programme (launched in February 2023). 3. PF2MT - provides training to post-doctoral researchers who will be submitting a proposal under the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) Individual Fellowships with a Maltese host institution (to be launched in March 2023). 4. European Research Council (ERC) Support Scheme - this measure supports individual researchers with potential to submit an ERC project proposal through coaching measures (to be launched in March 2023).
	<p>Strengthening of the National STEM Community Fund</p> <p>The National STEM Community Fund aims to inspire local communities to become ever more active in STEM and to increase local communities' awareness of STEM and how relevant and accessible it really is. The fund will also thus serve to further encourage the uptake of STEM-related subjects and careers, especially by youths and students.</p>	Implemented	<p>2 February 2023</p> <p><i>(Launch of the National STEM Community Fund applications for 2023)</i></p>	<p>National STEM Community Fund 2021: Four projects were awarded funds through the National STEM Community Fund Call issue in 2021. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equal by Nature; aimed to use genetics to build bridges between peoples of different nationalities. 2. Establishing Ecological Corridors for Fauna Species; aimed to shed light on the movements and habits of two common fauna species: the Mediterranean Chameleon and the Vagrant Hedgehog. 3. Malta Code4Earth (tackled 'SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities'); aimed to encourage primary schoolchildren to inquire, tinker, and build models representing more sustainable cities. 4. Get in Motion to Save the Ocean (GMSO); aimed to implement measures that will act as a contribution to the circular economy.

				<p>Beneficiaries are in the phase of submitting their final reports to Esplora Interactive Science Centre for evaluation. The remaining 30% of the funds will be awarded following the approval of the final report.</p> <p>National STEM Community Fund 2023: Preparations for the request of funds started in October 2022. The call for applications was launched on 2 February 2023. Interested applicants will need to submit their application form by 24 March 2023. Submitted applications will then be analysed by an Evaluation Board during the months of April and May 2023, the announcement of awardees will then follow. Therefore, awarded projects will be developed and implemented in the local community between 1 July 2023 until 28 June 2024.</p>
	<p>National Research and Innovation Strategic Plan 2023-2027</p> <p>This Strategic Plan was launched for public consultation in 2022, with the goals being: (i) Strengthening R&I Governance and Priority-Setting; (ii) Local Ecosystem Development; (iii) Enhanced Directionality through Missions and Smart Specialisation; (iv) Mainstreaming R&I in Public Policy; and (v) R&I Implementation Structures.</p>	Announced	Public consultation: 22 December 2022 - 31 January 2023	Public consultation ran between December 22 2022 and January 31 2023. The feedback received is currently being reviewed with a view to updating the document in light of the comments and suggestions received from stakeholders. It is envisaged that the final document will be presented to Cabinet for final approval by end of Q1 2023.
	<p>Adoption of Malta's Smart Specialisation Strategy 2021-27</p> <p>The National Smart Specialisation Strategy was published. This Strategy focuses on a number of key initiatives, including: (i) investing in research infrastructure; (ii) supporting internationalisation, including through participation in Horizon Europe; (iii) promoting inter-agency collaboration in support of enterprises; and (iv) incentives for industry stakeholders to innovate.</p>	Implemented	Public consultation: 28 October 2020 - 19 November 2020 Launch: January 2022 Launch of Implementation structure: 29 July 2022	Malta's RIS3 2021-2027 was launched in January 2022. In line with the governance structure described in the RIS3 itself, six thematic committees (one for each RIS3 area) were set up in July 2022. Five of the six Committees (the Committee on Future Digital Technologies necessitated some amendments to its composition) presented action plans for their areas at the end of November 2022. These action plans are currently being reviewed by the Ministry responsible for R&I with the technical support of the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST).
	<p>Guidelines for ethical practice and research integrity</p> <p>Higher Education Institutions/providers must have a framework in place for promoting and overseeing ethical practice and research integrity. These Guidelines aim to support institutions, licensed by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA), which involve students conducting research, to meet Malta's Quality Assurance standards.</p>	Implemented	Published: August 2022	Link to Guidelines: https://mfhea.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Final-version_Ethics-Publication-Insert-Pages-Pages-1-12-Definition.pdf
CSR.2020.4				
CSR 4 Subpart 1: Complete reforms addressing current shortcomings in institutional capacity and governance to enhance judicial independence.	<p>Digitalisation in the justice sector</p> <p>During 2023, Government will continue its massive investment in digitalisation from the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP). In the public sector, this includes, among others, an investment of over €10 million in the justice sector.</p>	Announced	Works commenced in January 2023	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	Establishment of a legal framework on a fixed term	Announced	Works commence in January 2023	A draft Bill on the compilation of evidence in criminal proceedings is expected to be presented to Cabinet in the next few months. Moreover, a committee is

	In 2023, a legal framework on a fixed term for the completion of the taking of evidence, full disclosure of the evidence by the prosecution at the start of the taking of evidence, as well as the elimination of referrals, will be established.			currently being set up in order to assess the issue dealing with the elimination of referrals.
	Making better use of the Court's administrative space Government will look into making better use of the Court's administrative space by converting it into a building housing new chambers in the Court's main building. This in order to increase the number of hearings and, at the same time, reducing the duration of cases.	Announced	Works commence in January 2023	Spaces currently being used for Court administrative services will be converted into two Halls. This is expected to be finalised by June 2024.
CSR 4 Subpart 2: Continue efforts to adequately assess and mitigate money-laundering risks and to ensure effective enforcement of the anti-money-laundering framework.				
CSR 4 Subpart 3: Step up action to address features of the tax system that facilitate aggressive tax planning by individuals and multinationals.	Transfer Pricing legislation, Study on Outbound and Inbound Payments and Spontaneous exchange of information mechanism	Implemented	October 2021	The milestones and targets related to these areas are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	The Tax Return Year of Assessment 2022 TRA 124 Supplement The Year of Assessment 2022's corporate tax return has introduced a new reporting obligation for non-domiciled companies to gather data on non-remitted income.	Implemented	Applied from Year of Assessment 2022 tax return. (Here applicability is linked with tax return period. Revised return was put in place/made available by Q2 2022)	This measure is intended to enable an internal review to be undertaken on the matter by the end of Q2 2023.
	Changes to the Tax Return Year of Assessment 2022 reflecting the limitations to the Participation Exemption System with respect to the EU's list of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions The Budget Measures Implementation Act has introduced limitations to the participation exemption with respect to certain inbound payments from bodies of persons resident in jurisdictions included in the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for a period of at least three months.	Implemented	Applied from Year of Assessment 2022 tax return. (Here applicability is linked with tax return period. Revised return was put in place/made available by Q2 2022)	This has been affected in the corporate tax return for Year of Assessment 2022.
CSR.2019.1				
CSR 1 Subpart 1: Ensure the fiscal sustainability of the healthcare and pension systems, including by restricting early retirement and adjusting the statutory retirement age in view of expected gains in life expectancy.	Extension of incentives for people who remain in employment to officers of the Disciplinary Corps The incentives introduced in 2016 for people who remain in employment after reaching the retirement age bore fruit. Therefore, it is time to start a process in order to extend these incentives to those officers of the Disciplinary	Announced	January 2023	Inter-Ministerial discussions are underway to determine the exact terms of this measure, as well as its relevant mechanism, so as to ensure effective implementation. It is being envisaged to fulfil the scope of the measure by Q2 2023.

	Corps who continue to give their service after they have given 25 years of service. This initiative will give members of the Disciplinary Corps the opportunity to improve their pension by 23% after four years of additional service.			
	<p>Adjustment of tax exemption on pension income</p> <p>The non-taxable pension income limit will be raised again by the same amount by which pensions will be increasing so that those who earn up to the equivalent of the maximum pension will remain non-taxable. Thus, this amount in 2023 will rise to €14,968. Those with a married computation will continue to be entitled to a maximum of €3,600 in tax-exempt income from other sources per year.</p> <p>A new limit concerning pensioners who were born from 1962 onwards will also be introduced, which will be tied to the highest pension such persons can receive.</p>	Announced	31 March 2023	Pensioners will remain non-taxable on their pension income. It is expected that circa 70,000 pensioners will benefit from this measure.
	<p>Adjustment to the tax exemption for active pensioners</p> <p>In the Budget for 2022, Government announced that over a period of five years, pension income will no longer be considered part of the taxable income. This is being done to encourage pensioners to remain active and continue working beyond retirement age. Against this background, in 2023, around 20% of the pension income will no longer be considered as part of the taxable income, while from next year, the amount not considered as part of the taxable income will increase to 40%. This measure comes at a total cost of €27 million, and almost 17,000 pensioners will benefit from it.</p>	Announced	March 2023	This measure constitutes an incentive for pensioners to continue working. It is expected that circa 70,000 pensioners will benefit from this measure.
CSR.2019.2				
CSR 2 Subpart 1: Address features of the tax system that may facilitate aggressive tax planning by individuals and multinationals, in particular by means of outbound payments.	Transfer Pricing legislation, Study on Outbound and Inbound Payments and Spontaneous exchange of information mechanism	Implemented	October 2021	The milestones and targets related to these areas are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	<p>The Tax Return Year of Assessment 2022 TRA 124 Supplement</p> <p>The Year of Assessment 2022's corporate tax return has introduced a new reporting obligation for non-domiciled companies to gather data on non-remitted income.</p>	Implemented	Applied from Year of Assessment 2022 tax return. (Here applicability is linked with tax return period. Revised return was put in place/made available by Q2 2022)	This measure is intended to enable an internal review to be undertaken on the matter by the end of Q2 2023.
	Changes to the Tax Return Year of Assessment 2022 reflecting the limitations to the Participation Exemption System with	Implemented	Applied from Year of Assessment 2022 tax return. (Here	This has been affected in the corporate tax return for Year of Assessment 2022.

	<p>respect to the EU's list of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions</p> <p>The Budget Measures Implementation Act has introduced limitations to the participation exemption with respect to certain inbound payments from bodies of persons resident in jurisdictions included in the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for a period of at least three months.</p>		applicability is linked with tax return period. Revised return was put in place/made available by Q2 2022)	
CSR 2 Subpart 2: Strengthen the overall governance framework, including by continuing efforts to detect and prosecute corruption.	<p>Establishment of a legal framework on a fixed term</p> <p>In 2023, a legal framework on a fixed term for the completion of the taking of evidence, full disclosure of the evidence by the prosecution at the start of the taking of evidence, as well as the elimination of referrals, will be established.</p>	Announced	Works commence in January 2023	A draft Bill on the compilation of evidence in criminal proceedings is expected to be presented to Cabinet in the next few months. Moreover, a committee is currently being set up in order to assess the issue dealing with the elimination of referrals.
	<p>Making better use of the Court's administrative space</p> <p>Government will look into making better use of the Court's administrative space by converting it into a building housing new chambers in the Court's main building. This in order to increase the number of hearings and, at the same time, reducing the duration of cases.</p>	Announced	Works commence in January 2023	Spaces currently being used for Court administrative services will be converted into two Halls. This is expected to be finalised by June 2024.
CSR 2 Subpart 3: Continue the ongoing progress made on strengthening the anti-money-laundering framework, in particular with regard to enforcements.				
CSR 2 Subpart 4: Strengthen the independence of the judiciary, in particular the safeguards for judicial appointments and dismissals, and establish a separate prosecution service.				
CSR.2019.3				
CSR 3 Subpart 1: Focus investment-related economic policy on research and innovation,	<p>Technology Extension Support Programme</p> <p>In 2023 investment in research and innovation will be increased, including through a new Technology Extension Support programme with an investment of €200,000, where through the participation of the private sector, innovative projects in various areas will be financed.</p>	Announced	May 2023	The Technology Extension Support Programme will form part of the FUSION portfolio. FUSION supports local Research and Innovation (R&I), as well as providing the necessary support for researchers and technologists to turn their innovative ideas into a market-ready reality. The Technology Extension Support Programme will incentivise the formation of collaborations between Higher Education Institutes and the private sector through small-scale projects focusing on incremental innovation. The Scheme is envisaged to be launched in May 2023. As of January 2023, consultation sessions with relevant stakeholders have been held and the programme is being drafted.
	<p>Extension of participation in the Horizon Europe programme</p> <p>Government will also extend support to participation in the Horizon Europe programme.</p>	Announced	2 January 2023	<p>The Horizon Europe Support Schemes are aimed at enhancing the participation of Maltese entities in the Horizon Europe Programme. The 2023 Support Schemes are split into 4 different measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horizon Networking Scheme - this scheme supports the participation of Maltese researchers to attend Horizon Europe brokerage events and potentially meet with possible project consortium coordinators (launched in January 2023).

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. European Innovation Council (EIC) Support Scheme - this measure aims at supporting potential EIC applicants by providing pitch training and coaching as well as proposal writing support to start-ups and SMEs with potential in participating in the EIC Programme (launched in February 2023). 3. PF2MT - provides training to post-doctoral researchers who will be submitting a proposal under the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) Individual Fellowships with a Maltese host institution (to be launched in March 2023). 4. European Research Council (ERC) Support Scheme - this measure supports individual researchers with potential to submit an ERC project proposal through coaching measures (to be launched in March 2023).
	<p>Strengthening of the National STEM Community Fund</p> <p>The National STEM Community Fund aims to inspire local communities to become ever more active in STEM and to increase local communities' awareness of STEM and how relevant and accessible it really is. The fund will also thus serve to further encourage the uptake of STEM-related subjects and careers, especially by youths and students.</p>	Implemented	<p>2 February 2023</p> <p><i>(Launch of the National STEM Community Fund applications for 2023)</i></p>	<p>National STEM Community Fund 2021: Four projects were awarded funds through the National STEM Community Fund Call issue in 2021. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equal by Nature; aimed to use genetics to build bridges between peoples of different nationalities. 2. Establishing Ecological Corridors for Fauna Species; aimed to shed light on the movements and habits of two common fauna species: the Mediterranean Chameleon and the Vagrant Hedgehog. 3. Malta Code4Earth (tackled 'SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities'); aimed to encourage primary schoolchildren to inquire, tinker, and build models representing more sustainable cities. 4. Get in Motion to Save the Ocean (GMSO); aimed to implement measures that will act as a contribution to the circular economy. <p>Beneficiaries are in the phase of submitting their final reports to Esplora Interactive Science Centre for evaluation. The remaining 30% of the funds will be awarded following the approval of the final report.</p> <p>National STEM Community Fund 2023: Preparations for the request of funds started in October 2022. The call for applications was launched on 2 February 2023. Interested applicants will need to submit their application form by 24 March 2023. Submitted applications will then be analysed by an Evaluation Board during the months of April and May 2023, the announcement of awardees will then follow. Therefore, awarded projects will be developed and implemented in the local community between 1 July 2023 until 28 June 2024.</p>
	<p>National Research and Innovation Strategic Plan 2023-2027</p> <p>This Strategic Plan was launched for public consultation in 2022, with the goals being: (i) Strengthening R&I Governance and Priority-Setting; (ii) Local Ecosystem Development; (iii) Enhanced Directionality through Missions and Smart Specialisation; (iv) Mainstreaming R&I in Public Policy; and (v) R&I Implementation Structures.</p>	Announced	<p>Public consultation: 22 December 2022 - 31 January 2023</p>	<p>Public consultation ran between December 22 2022 and January 31 2023. The feedback received is currently being reviewed with a view to updating the document in light of the comments and suggestions received from stakeholders. It is envisaged that the final document will be presented to Cabinet for final approval by end of Q1 2023.</p>
	<p>Adoption of Malta's Smart Specialisation Strategy 2021-27</p> <p>The National Smart Specialisation Strategy was published. This Strategy focuses on a number of key initiatives, including: (i) investing in research infrastructure; (ii) supporting internationalisation, including through participation in Horizon Europe; (iii) promoting</p>	Implemented	<p>Public consultation: 28 October 2020 - 19 November 2020</p> <p>Launch: January 2022</p> <p>Launch of Implementation structure: 29 July 2022</p>	<p>Malta's RIS3 2021-2027 was launched in January 2022. In line with the governance structure described in the RIS3 itself, six thematic committees (one for each RIS3 area) were set up in July 2022. Five of the six Committees (the Committee on Future Digital Technologies necessitated some amendments to its composition) presented action plans for their areas at the end of November 2022. These action plans are currently being reviewed by the Ministry responsible for R&I with the technical support of the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST).</p>

	inter-agency collaboration in support of enterprises; and (iv) incentives for industry stakeholders to innovate.			
	<p>Guidelines for ethical practice and research integrity</p> <p>Higher Education Institutions/providers must have a framework in place for promoting and overseeing ethical practice and research integrity. These Guidelines aim to support institutions, licensed by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA), which involve students conducting research, to meet Malta's Quality Assurance standards.</p>	Implemented	Published: August 2022	Link to Guidelines: https://mfhea.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Final-version_Ethics-Publication-Insert-Pages-Pages-1-12-Definition.pdf
CSR 3 Subpart 2: natural resources management,	<p>National Policy for Sustainable Food</p> <p>The Government is working on developing the first National Policy for Sustainable Food, which will also include the Action Plan for Organic Production in Malta.</p>	Announced		<p>Discussions are underway for the setup of an Authority for Food Security and Sustainability with the scope for the effective integration of regulatory functions, policy and Research and Development and Innovation functions in the areas of food supply, safety and quality.</p> <p>Such authority will also follow up the development of a national policy for food security and sustainability that sets strategic direction to address food culture, farming viability and long-term resilience in food systems.</p>
	<p>Carbon Farming</p> <p>Work on the launch of an initiative for carbon farming has started. In 2022, the first phase of the project was implemented with a pilot project. This project will continue throughout 2023; its effect will be analysed, and a strategy will be created.</p>	Announced	1 January 2023 - 30 June 2024	The evaluation of the pilot project phase 2 has been completed. This is to be followed up by a Call for engagement of consultants to carry out the study.
	<p>New IT system for the fisheries and aquaculture sector</p> <p>Government will also be investing in fishermen's knowledge with a new IT system that will reform the fisheries and aquaculture sector by modernising the infrastructure with digital tools and a more efficient service.</p>	Announced	December 2023	<p>The technical specifications required for the programming of an IT system in order to modernise the current infrastructure is currently being compiled. Such specifications will serve as the basis for the software development so as to utilise digital tools for the provision of a more efficient and effective service.</p> <p>Therefore currently, implementation consists of the compilation of technical specifications.</p>
	<p>Scheme for the restoration of wells in old residential homes</p> <p>Government will again offer the scheme for the restoration of wells in old residential homes.</p>	Implemented	7 May 2018	Scheme continued over the years and was extended until 31 December 2023 through Government Notice 173 of 2022.
	<p>Coordination of the implementation of environmental projects through a new agency</p> <p>The Government is committed to making the biggest investment in the environment and in the quality of people's lives. For this purpose, a new agency will be set up to coordinate the implementation of the allocation of €700 million over a period of seven years to environmental projects. This project will lead to more gardens, urban greening projects and more open spaces that can be enjoyed by Maltese and Gozitan families. The communities</p>	Implemented	16 January 2023	The new agency 'Project Green' was launched on 16 January 2023.

	and the residents will be at the centre of the work of this entity while Government will also see that the private sector is given the opportunity to invest in the realisation and maintenance of these projects through PPPs and alternative financing methods.			
	Extension of St Clement Park A site next to St Clement Park has been identified for the extension of this much sought-after park.	Announced	November 2022	Works have commenced and will be completed in November 2023.
	Works at the Majjistral Park Works continued on the Majjistral Park. These will be completed at the beginning of 2023.	Implemented	November 2022	Works related to picnic area are being implemented and will be concluded by February 2023.
	Works at the Marsascala Park and at Ta' Qali National Park In 2023, work will continue on both Marsascala Park and Ta' Qali National Park.	Implemented	September 2020 (Ta' Qali National Park) October 2023 (Marsascala Park)	Works at Ta' Qali National Park are currently ongoing and consist of the following: 1) Concert Area - expected to be completed in June 2023 2) Formal Garden - set to be completed in February 2023 3) Carpark - Works have started in October 2022 and are scheduled to continue in 2023. Works at Marsascala Park will start as tenders are at evaluation stage and will be completed in October 2023.
	Rehabilitation of valleys Cleaning and restoration works in a number of valleys have been completed. Through these projects, with a total investment of €2 million, Government will be reaching the goal of water storage while preserving Malta's historical heritage. In 2023, Government will continue with the rehabilitation of several valleys.	Implemented	5 July 2022	Għajn Riĥana Valley works related to cleaning and removal of invasive species and planting of trees have started in 2022 and were concluded in December 2022. Currently, the Għajn Riĥana Masonry Structures Tender is in the process of being published. Works are envisaged to be concluded by November 2023. Preparatory works for Qannotta Valley and Speranza /Qlejgħa Valley are underway. Work in Wied Qannotta is envisaged to be concluded by October 2025, while work in Wied Speranza/Qlejgħa is envisaged to be concluded by December 2023.
	Investment in strengthening biodiversity Government will also invest in strengthening biodiversity by investing in Natura 2000 zones as well as in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).	Announced	January 2023	The expected state of play in Q1 2023 is as follows: Natura 2000 Zones: The species of non-native and/or invasive plants and/or trees that are stifling native habitats and reducing biodiversity within the Natura 2000 sites in Għajn Tuffeħa, il-Buskett and Għar Lapsi will be identified. Marine Protected Areas: Research will be carried out on the best methods of removal and control of Caulerpa taxifolia which is a type of invasive algae which is choking the habitat of Posidonia oceanica which is fundamental for the biodiversity of the Maltese sea and that of the Mediterranean.
	Replacement of old water mains Work is underway to replace around 40 kilometres of old mains, 25% of which have already been replaced.	Implemented	Project planning started in 2020.	25% of the stretches planned for replacement have been completed.
CSR 3 Subpart 3: resource and energy efficiency,	Grand Harbour Clean Air Project At the moment, some of the most ambitious environmental projects in our country are related to installing systems that allow large vessels, such as passenger or cargo ships, to switch off their engines while they are berthed in our ports. These will instead connect directly to the national grid. This project will help to	Announced	Works on site started in November 2020 Tender for the second phase issued in August 2022	The first phase of the project is expected to be completed in 2023, while the tender for second phase of the project is currently under evaluation and results are expected in May 2023.

	<p>reduce air pollution and improve the quality of life of people living in the South of our country and around the Grand Harbour. Work on the first phase of the project covering the Northern Part of the Grand Harbour and Boiler Wharf is ongoing and proceeding at a good pace, and is expected to be completed in 2023. This project is co-funded under CEF Transport with an eligible investment €25,771,035.</p> <p>With an investment of €50 million, the second phase of the project for the Southern Part of the Grand Harbour aims to extend the supply of shore-side electricity to ships berthing in this area, including Ras Hanzir, Laboratory and Magazine Wharves as well as two quays located within the Palumbo Shipyard (these being Dock 6 also known as China Dock and Parlatorio quay) and Mediterranean Maritime Hub (MMH).</p>			
	<p>Provision of shore-to-ship electricity at the Malta Freeport</p> <p>Further to the project being undertaken in the Grand Harbour, progress has been made on the process to implement this type of project in the Freeport as well.</p>	Implemented	30 September 2022	<p>Two quays within the Freeport Terminals, namely North Quay Terminal 1 (NQT1) and North Quay Terminal 2 (NQT2) are each to be provided with a bi-directional High Voltage Shore Connection (HVSC) system for use by container ships whilst at berth. These systems will permit berthed container vessels to import/export power to/from the national grid.</p> <p>Tenders were awarded and project is in implementation stage. It is projected to be on stream during the last quarter of 2024.</p>
	<p>Renovation in Private Sector Buildings</p> <p>The grant scheme under the RRP for the climate-friendly renovation of commercial buildings in the private sector with a value of around €20 million will continue during 2023.</p>	Implemented	June 2022	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
CSR 3 Subpart 4: sustainable transport, reducing traffic congestion and	<p>Road Infrastructure</p> <p>From 2018 to the end of 2022, Government will have invested a total of €507 million in road infrastructure improvements in Malta. Several large infrastructural projects were completed with this investment.</p>	Implemented	January 2018	<p>Mrieħel Underpass and Ħal Kirkop Tunnels have been completed.</p> <p>Airport Intersection Project and the Luqa Junction: The Grade Separation Junctions at WA 24 MIA Junction and WA 23 Dinitrol Junction along the TEN-T Core Section of Civil Aviation Avenue, Luqa, Malta project is being funded through CEF Transport with total eligible cost of €25,703,462. Works are ongoing.</p> <p>Work is ongoing on residential roads.</p>
	<p>Electrification of the public transport fleet</p> <p>Government will continue to electrify the public transport fleet with an investment of millions of euro. A large amount of the fleet will consist of electric vehicles.</p>	Implemented	December 2022	<p>In line with the RRP, Government is committed to support the part replacement of its public transport fleet (Euro 5) with electric buses. An MOU between Government and Operator has been signed in December 2022. Now discussions are ongoing to set the implementation arrangements for the purchase of the 102 e-buses. €34 million from the RRP shall cover the difference in price between a conventional bus and an e-bus for 102 buses. Additional investment by the Government shall be carried out to ensure the availability of adequate infrastructure for the charging of the e-buses, discussions are ongoing on this part with operator, Enemalta and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>The operator is in the process of acquiring additional 25 new electric buses, which are to be put in service in the coming weeks to increase the frequency of bus services.</p>

				<p>Two 100% electric, zero-emission buses have already been added as part of the scheduled public transport fleet in Malta to serve as test base for when the roll out of more e-buses will materialise.</p> <p>Discussions are also ongoing in order to finalise plans on the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of areas where buses will be charged • Reviewing Infrastructural requirements (to put up charging stations) • Reviewing possibilities of financing infrastructural requirements • Reviewing contractual changes required. <p>Buses expected to be deployed on service by Q2 2025.</p>
	<p>Grant for the purchase of new electric vehicles</p> <p>The financial grant aiming to incentivise the acquisition of new electricity-powered vehicles will be renewed, and whoever buys a new electric vehicle, including motorcycles, will be entitled to an €11,000 grant, which would go up to a maximum of €12,000 if the vehicle scrappage scheme is availed of as well. The same applies to the scheme which incentivises the purchase of mopeds, pedelecs and bicycles assisted by an electric motor. The total expenditure on these grants will be €20 million.</p>	Announced	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	<p>Renewed financial grant for scrappage of polluting vehicles in Gozo</p> <p>The financial grant of the scheme for the scrappage of polluting cars in Gozo will remain at €2,000.</p>	Implemented	October 2021	Scheme shall be re-launched in March 2023.
	<p>Extension of other schemes promoting cleaner vehicles</p> <p>In 2023, electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles with a battery autonomy of 50km or more will still be exempted from registration tax and from payment of the annual road licence fee for a period of 5 years from the date of first registration.</p>	Implemented	1 January 2023	This measure is being implemented. It will help to encourage and boost the uptake of cleaner vehicles and contributes towards mitigating CO ₂ levels of pollution.
	<p>Extension of schemes for installation of photovoltaic panels on vehicles</p> <p>The scheme whereby vehicles such as minibuses, coaches and trucks that have photovoltaic panels installed on top are given a grant up to a maximum of €900 will be extended.</p>	Announced	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	Grants application for this measure will be published in the coming weeks.
	<p>Extension of schemes for (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems on vehicles</p> <p>The scheme whereby minibus, coach and truck operators install diesel particle filters (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems will be extended.</p>	Implemented	Scheme shall be launched in March 2023	Grants applications for this measure will be published in the coming weeks.

	<p>Ferry Landing Stations (Buġibba)</p> <p>Recent years have revealed that alternative means of transport by sea were successful. Government worked on the ferry landing stations in Valletta, Mgarr, Cottonera and Sliema. The contract for the commencement of works on the Buġibba pier has been signed.</p>	Announced	November 2022	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
CSR 3 Subpart 5: inclusive education and training.	<p>School Renovations</p> <p>Works on the construction of a new Primary School and Middle School at Victoria, Gozo, the construction of a new Primary School at Msida, the construction of a new Primary School at Rabat (Malta), and the full refurbishment of the Primary Schools at Hal Ghaxaq and Nadur, will continue during 2023 and will be ready during the scholastic year 2023-24.</p>	Implemented	<p>Start dates:</p> <p>Victoria, Gozo, Primary and Middle School - 26 August 2019</p> <p>Msida Primary School - 2 March 2020</p> <p>Rabat, Malta, Primary School - 18/06/2021</p> <p>Hal Ghaxaq Primary School - 23 November 2022</p> <p>Nadur Primary School - 6 June 2022</p>	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	<p>New campus for the Institute for Tourism Studies</p> <p>Work on the new Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS) campus will be commencing in Smart City.</p>	Implemented	November 2022	The milestones and targets related to this area are on track in line with the milestones and targets included in the Council Implementing Decisions of 5 October 2021.
	<p>Operational restructuring process within the Institute for Tourism Studies</p> <p>ITS is working on an operational restructuring process whereby it will be implementing its strategic plan.</p>	Implemented	March 2021	In 2021, the Institute of Tourism Studies launched its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan where it reaffirms its vision and mission whilst setting its core functions, strategic initiatives, product mix and overall purpose. Currently, discussions are underway regarding the operational restructuring within ITS.
	<p>Extension of the Institute for Tourism Studies' academic scope to programmes up to MQF 7</p> <p>ITS will be extending its academic scope to programmes up to MQF 7 accredited by the Institute itself.</p>	Announced	September 2023	<p>In May 2019, an affiliation agreement with the Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management was signed so that the ITS would offer master's degree (MQF Level 7) in Business Administration in International Hospitality Management. The master's programme commenced in October 2019.</p> <p>The accreditation process for the master's programme in Heritage Interpretation was completed in May 2022. The master's programme then commenced in October 2022. These two programmes are ongoing.</p> <p>Now that both master's programmes have successfully undergone a full cycle, the process of obtaining the extension of scope has officially started with the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority. The objective is to conclude the process by September of 2023, following which ITS will be able to accredit its own homegrown undergraduate degrees and master's programmes.</p>
	<p>Education and training of people in the film industry</p> <p>The education and training of people in this industry will strengthen the quality and competitiveness and allow more Maltese people to work in productions that choose Malta. Government wants to create a sustainable career-based film industry that continues to shift from a seasonal sector to a sector that offers work all year round.</p>	Implemented	October 2022	In October 2022, the Malta Film Commission (MFC) launched a training programme providing free courses to encourage those individuals with the necessary skills and know-how to transfer these same skills to the film industry. Initial introduction sessions and 6 specific courses (set design, electrical & sparks, plastering & painting, carpentry, welding, props & set dressing) took place in November-December 2022; more than 500 individuals attended. During 2023 a second stream of courses will be taking place. In addition to the above the MFC is currently in the process of updating the Malta Film Commission's Audio-visual Strategy document with various measures and actions for the period 2023-2030. Specific measures will focus on having a professional and skilled workforce; in addition to introducing initiatives and

				programmes that will encourage new entrants, support-emerging talent and create careers for the film and audio-visual sector. Measures and an action plan detailing deliverables and timeframes will be available towards end of June 2023.												
	<p>Extension of the Youth Guarantee</p> <p>Government will continue the Youth Guarantee scheme with an investment of around €10 million.</p>	Implemented	28 February 2014	Jobsplus continued to implement the Youth Guarantee and invest in providing quality opportunities to eligible individuals. The reinforced Youth Guarantee highlighted the need to reinforce the mapping of the target group to enable a better understanding of the diversity of NEETs and the tailored support they are likely to require. To ensure quality services, Jobsplus will be carrying out an in-depth research and data analysis on inactive youth to extract variables and demographics for target groups of 15-24 years and 25-29 years of age. The findings of this research will allow Jobsplus to map target groups based on their training and support needs and design improved training programmes for the target group.												
	<p>Extension of Training Schemes</p> <p>Government will continue training schemes such as the 'Training for Employment' and 'Investing in Skills', and the 'Access to Employment' and 'VASTE' schemes.</p>	Implemented	<p>Training Pays Scheme - 21 March 2017</p> <p>Work Exposure Scheme - 2 January 2016</p> <p>VASTE Programme - 23 October 2017</p>	<p>Under the Training for Employment Project, Jobsplus will continue to administer the Training Pays Scheme and the Work Exposure Scheme (WES) to facilitate the upskilling and reskilling of the workforce in an everchanging labour market. Applications for both schemes will remain open until end July 2023, subject to availability of funds. The eligibility criteria for WES remained unchanged as the scheme targets unemployed and inactive persons aged between 20 and 64 years and who never participated in this scheme before. With regard to the Training Pays Scheme, while the eligibility criteria remained the same, there was a change in the grant value as the capping was increased from €1,000 or €3,000 to €5,000, irrespective of the choice of the training programme.</p> <p>Moreover, the Investing in Skills will continue to offer employers the opportunity to invest in human capital and upskill their workforce through financial aid until mid-2023. The Access to Employment Scheme (which will recommence in Q1 2023) and the VASTE Programme will continue to be available to vulnerable jobseekers in order to facilitate their integration in the labour market.</p>												
	<p>Extension of Scheme 9</p> <p>Scheme 9 will also be extended so that eligible children may benefit from all the categories of support available under Scheme 9.</p>	Implemented	Start date: October 2022	Scheme 9 started in 2017. However, in October 2022 it was extended so that children can benefit from all the categories of support that they need.												
	<p>A new laptop for each seventh-year student</p> <p>The one-tablet-per-child initiative will be extended, and a new laptop will be given to each seventh-year student starting from the next scholastic year.</p>	Announced	Start date: Scholastic year 2023/24	Laptop will be given to students in Year 7 in scholastic year 2023/24. The laptop will include digital learning content. The One Tablet per Child Initiative will remain for students in Years 4 to 6.												
	<p>Strengthening the existing scholarship and tax credit programmes</p> <p>The existing scholarship and tax credit programmes will be strengthened for those students who wish to continue their studies at Master and Doctorate levels, also using funds under the European Social Fund.</p>	Implemented	Start date: June 2022	<p>Between 2021 and 2022, the scholarship budget was increased and the capping of funds available to each student also increased, as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scholarship</th> <th>Aspect</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme (TESS)</td> <td>MQF7 blended, part-time, full-time or distance learning</td> <td>€8,000</td> <td>€10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malta Sports Scholarships Scheme</td> <td>Scholarship Awardees with a disability</td> <td>No benefit</td> <td>€1,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Scholarship	Aspect	2021	2022	Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme (TESS)	MQF7 blended, part-time, full-time or distance learning	€8,000	€10,000	Malta Sports Scholarships Scheme	Scholarship Awardees with a disability	No benefit	€1,000
Scholarship	Aspect	2021	2022													
Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme (TESS)	MQF7 blended, part-time, full-time or distance learning	€8,000	€10,000													
Malta Sports Scholarships Scheme	Scholarship Awardees with a disability	No benefit	€1,000													
	<p>Fellowship scheme for educators to participate in a fellowship for Masters in Education (Poverty and Social Exclusion)</p> <p>The fellowship scheme for educators to participate in a fellowship for Masters in Education (Poverty and Social Exclusion) was</p>	Implemented	Start date: August 2021	9 educators from diverse colleges in Malta and Gozo are benefitting from this fellowship. They have completed the taught element of the Masters and are now working towards completing their dissertation. Masters will be completed by end June 2023.												

	launched in order to target early leaving from education and training (ELET) within colleges.			
	<p>Continuous Assessment in SEC exams</p> <p>Following the introduction of continuous assessments in the Primary, Middle and Secondary Years, continuous assessment will start to contribute towards SEC/SEAC results from the May 2025 session. Therefore, students in Year 9 during scholastic year 2022/23 will be the first cohort whose school results will contribute towards their SEC/SEAC results.</p>	Implemented	Preparation: 2019 First SEC/SEAC exam session: May 2025	<p>The new SEC syllabi are written using learning outcomes and assessment criteria, which clarify learning goals for both students and teachers. Moreover, the new SEC syllabi are divided into three levels and allow for progression, hence widening the range of abilities which are assessed by the MATSEC Examinations Board.</p> <p>Coursework, which is work set and assessed by teachers as per instructions in the relevant syllabus, contributes to a percentage of the global mark in all subjects. The implementation of the new SEC syllabi will consist of a number of assignments (coursework) that will be conducted during Years 9, 10 and 11. The assignments may be done during lessons in schools or assigned as homework. Teachers will conduct 3 to 5 assignments throughout Years 9, 10 and 11, as per syllabus of each SEC subject. A final controlled assessment will take place at the end of Year 11, set and marked by the MATSEC Examination Board. The final SEC mark for each subject will be based on a combination of the mark of the final controlled assessment and the coursework.</p> <p>Vocational subjects will be assessed through two assignments and a controlled assessment annually. The controlled assessment is set by the MATSEC Examinations Board. The assessments are internally and externally verified.</p> <p>This change will enable students to be assessed at MQF 1-3, rather than solely MQF3 (which was the case in the previous SEC system).</p>
	<p>New Lifelong Learning courses in 21st century skills</p> <p>In academic year 2022/23, lifelong training courses were initiated to facilitate the uptake of 21st century skills. These include new courses in digital literacy, media literacy and personal finance.</p>	Implemented	Courses started in October 2022	<p>In 2022/23 these courses have attracted the following applicants:</p> <p>Personal Finance – Managing your Money: 73</p> <p>Digital skills – Learn to use your Smartphone and/or Tablet: 87</p> <p>Digital Skills – Getting started with social media and online communication: 16</p> <p>Digital Skills – Learn to use the Internet and email: 78</p> <p>Digital Skills – Getting started with online shopping: 9</p>
	<p>Lifelong Learning opens eLearning College</p> <p>In academic year 2019/2020, the Lifelong Learning Unit offered online learning courses for the first time, in response to the closure of education establishments to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Since 2020/21, synchronous online learning courses have been a permanent fixture in the lifelong learning prospectus. In academic year 2020/21, Learning Box was also introduced, offering asynchronous learning to adults who are time-poor by introducing flexibility of place and time.</p>	Announced	Start date: 8 March 2020 Launch of eCollege website: 1 February 2023	eCollege has been launched as is accessible on https://ecollege.edu.mt/
	<p>Continuous Assessment in Lifelong Learning courses</p> <p>In order to make learning more accessible by reducing exam anxiety, in 2020/21 continuous assessment was introduced to accredited homegrown courses. In 2020/21, continuous assessment comprised 40% of the global mark, which was increased to 60% in academic year 2021/22. In 2022/23, Government is working towards removing summative assessment</p>	Implemented	Start date: Introduction of continuous assessment: 2020 Elimination of summative assessment: 2023	The Lifelong Learning Unit is finalising documents required by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority for submission and approval.

	altogether, therefore continuous assessment will comprise 100% of the student's final mark.			
	<p>Research on children's wellbeing</p> <p>Education and wellbeing go hand in hand: learning cannot take place if children feel unwell; and receiving an education is conducive to ensuring long-term wellbeing. To this end, the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR), and the Superintendent of Public Health worked together on the following studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WHO Health Behaviour in School-aged Children study (HBSC); - A survey on the wellbeing of children in Years 7, 9 and 11, focusing on wellbeing outcomes related to education; and <p>A national study on childhood obesity among schoolchildren attending Kindergarten 2 to Year 11.</p>	Implemented	Start date: Q3/2021	<p>Data collection for the HBSC and wellbeing studies took place jointly, between January and March 2022. The results of the HBSC study are being analysed by the WHO, while the wellbeing study results will be analysed by the MEYR Research Unit in 2023.</p> <p>Data collection for the BMI study took place between March and June 2022. The first report was published on 30 December 2022. Link to the BMI Study report: https://researchandinnovation.gov.mt/en/Documents/Childhood%20Obesity%20in%20Malta.pdf</p>
	<p>Catch-up Educational Sessions</p> <p>Since Summer 2021, catch-up classes were introduced to revise work done during the 2020/21 scholastic year. Catch-up classes continue to be offered in the Summer and on Saturdays throughout the scholastic year. Classes are currently offered in core subjects, that is Mathematics, Maltese, English and Science (or Physics in the case of secondary school). Attending catch-up classes is not mandatory, but students are encouraged to sign up voluntarily.</p>	Implemented	Start date: May 2020	Summer Catch-up classes 2022 - 783 students attending Saturday Catch-up classes during scholastic year 2022/23 - 414 students attending
	<p>Guidance Unit set up within the Lifelong Learning Unit</p> <p>The Lifelong Learning Unit set up a Guidance Unit, which aims to support learners (aged 15+) to be able to access and complete the course. Special arrangements are made for facilitating such access and completion.</p>	Implemented	Start date: February 2020	The Guidance Unit was set up in February 2020. Link: https://lifelonglearning.gov.mt/guidance/
	<p>National Strategic Action Plan for Further and Higher Education 2030</p> <p>This National Strategic Action Plan was published for public consultation in December 2022. It is based on innovative, inclusive quality-driven further and higher education, which encourage persons to engage in upskilling and reskilling through the lifecourse.</p>	Announced	Public consultation: 9 December 2022 - 9 January 2023	<p>The feedback (10 submissions) collected through the public consultation is currently being analysed and amendments will subsequently be made to the Strategic Action Plan.</p> <p>Link: https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MEDE/Documents/MFHEA%20National%20Strategic%20Plan%202030.pdf</p>
	<p>National Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care Services (0-3 years)</p> <p>These Standards superseded the National Standards for Child Day Care Facilities (2006). The new Standards were published together with the Registration Criteria for Childcare</p>	Implemented	Published: October 2021	<p>Link to the Standards: https://education.gov.mt/en/resources/Documents/Policy%20Documents/MFED%20National%20Standards%20OECEC%20Oct21.pdf</p> <p>Link to the registration criteria: https://education.gov.mt/en/dqse/Documents/publications/MEDE%20Registration%20Criteria%200-3yo%20Oct21.pdf</p>

	Settings, whereby education quality and environmental quality work together. An implementation plan was also developed for the gradual implementation of the Standards.			This measure impacts all childcare services (165 childcare centres as of January 2023) and all children who attend them. The share of children aged between 0 and 2 attending childcare: 37.5% (2017), 32.1% (2018), 37.8% (2019), 29.7% (2020) and 24.0% (2021) (source: NSO).
	Guidelines for Quality Assurance – For Online Learning Providers In Malta The Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) launched these Guidelines in September 2021, covering 8 domains: (i) leadership and management; (ii) staffing profile and professional development; (iii) review and improvement; (iv) resources; (v) student information, experience and support; (vi) assessment and integrity; (vii) learning outcomes; and (viii) curriculum design.	Implemented	Published: September 2021	Link to the Guidelines: https://mfhea.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Guidelines-for-FHEI-Digital-Version-Lower-Def.pdf These Guidelines apply to all programmes that include online/blended provision. By 31 December 2021, the MFHEA had received 23 applications from already licensed education institutions to start providing blended or fully online learning and it had approved 10 of them. The rest of the applications were carried forward to 2022 and approved. 1 new license was issued for online/blended provision. During 2022, 6 new licenses were issued for online/blended provision.
	Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) – Definitions, Principles and Guidelines The MFHEA published this guidance document to ensure that institutions' Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policies and procedures are appropriate and beneficial to all learners. This includes RPL procedures, accessing RPL, support for candidates, assessing RPL claims and completing the RPL process.	Implemented	Published: May 2021	Link to the Guidelines: https://mfhea.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Recognition-of-Prior-Learning-Guidelines-4.pdf This work was part of the ECVET 2020 Project co-funded by Erasmus+. The MFHEA has collaborated with the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework Partnership through events and the issuing of a scoping report, as well as the final RPL guidelines. This relates to the validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL) with reference to learning outcomes. MFHEA processed 27 applications for RPL policy evaluation up to 20 January 2023, 20 of which were approved.
	Early Childhood Education and Care National Policy Framework for Malta and Gozo (0-7 years)	Implemented	Public consultation: 29 May 2021 – 2 July 2021 Publication: October 2021	Link to the document: https://education.gov.mt/en/resources/Documents/Policy%20Documents/NPF%20Early%20Childhood%20Education%20and%20Care%20-%20A4%20Oct21.pdf This policy impacts all children aged 0-7 years attending education establishments. The share of children aged between 0 and 2 attending childcare: 37.5% (2017), 32.1% (2018), 37.8% (2019), 29.7% (2020) and 24.0% (2021) (source: NSO). The share of children between the age of three and the starting age of compulsory primary education who participated in early childhood education and care in Malta were: 99.4% (2013), 95.5% (2014), 96.9% (2015), 95.0% (2016), 93.2% (2017), 93.8% (2018), 91.9% (2019), 89.1% (2020) (Source: Eurostat)
	University of Malta Strategic Plan 2020-2025 The University of Malta Strategic Plan outlines its commitment to serve students, scholarship and society in a sustainable manner that is responsive to this country's present and emergent needs. It outlines 60 main commitments in 7 strategic themes: (i) Learning and Teaching; (ii) Research and Knowledge Transfer; (iii) Societal Factors and Impact; (iv) Enterprise and Industry Impact; (v) National Impact; (vi) International Outlook; Sustainability; and (vii) Services and Administrative Support.	Implemented	Start date: 1 January 2022	The Plan was approved by the Senate on 30 May 2019 and by the Council on 21 June 2019. Since then, the University has engaged in an intensive implementation programme. The following areas have been implemented: developing Infrastructure for online learning and assessment; establishing the doctoral school; enacting new policies for equity and inclusion; providing support on mental health; engaging with industry through ongoing conferences; creating summer internships for students; promoting the language policy; improving the University's ranking; increasing the marketing of programmes abroad; increasing sustainable measures; upgrading of administrative support on welfare, research, physical space, technology, library, communications and staff development. Link: https://www.um.edu.mt/about/strategy/downloadstrategicplan/

	<p>MCAST Strategic Plan for 2022-2027</p> <p>The MCAST Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 aims to develop an open community of learners and workers that will make our country more competitive, sustainable, and greener. It includes providing support to students and staff. The Strategic Plan identifies 3 transversal themes, 7 strategic objectives, 41 initiatives and 184 measures.</p>	Implemented	Published: 17 November 2021	<p>Link: https://www.mcast.edu.mt/wp-content/uploads/MCAST_StrategicPlan_2022-2027_17_11_final.pdf</p>
	<p>Language Policy for the Primary Years in Malta and Gozo</p> <p>The Language Policy for the Junior Years promotes the bilingual development in Maltese and English of pupils (7-11 years) in Malta and Gozo. It is intended to provide national guidelines for bilingual education for this age group.</p>	Implemented	Published: 10 January 2023	<p>This will impact all primary school students aged 7-11 (total primary students in Years 1-6 in scholastic year 2020/21: 26,941). Training to parents, COPE Sessions and literacy support to educators have been carried out and will continue on an ongoing basis. Other initiatives will be promoted through the Language Policy Unit at the National Literacy Agency, with support from language teams within schools.</p> <p>Link: https://education.gov.mt/en/resources/Documents/Policy%20Documents/A%20Language%20Policy%20for%20the%20Junior%20Years.pdf</p>
	<p>Review of key policy documents in education</p> <p>A committee was set up to review the Framework for the Education Strategy for Malta: 2014-2024 and develop a new Strategic Framework for Education and Training 2030.</p> <p>This committee led to the establishment, in 2022, of the National Curriculum Framework (2012) Review Board and four thematic committees dedicated to key areas: (i) prevention of early leaving from education and training; (ii) lifelong learning; (iii) literacy; and (iv) digitalization and simplification.</p> <p>The Learning Outcomes Framework was introduced in 2015 and started being implemented gradually from 2018. In 2023, the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR) launched a review of the implementation of the Learning Outcomes Framework.</p>	Implemented	Start date: July 2022	<p>The Committee brings together all stakeholders in education (state, church and independent schools; workers' unions; further and higher education establishments) with a view to improve communication between stakeholders, provide strategic focus and direction, as well as outline the strategic priorities of the National Curriculum Framework.</p> <p>The National Curriculum Framework Review Board is tasked with reviewing the existing National Curriculum Framework and creating synergy between the National Curriculum Framework and the Learning Outcomes Framework.</p> <p>Three of the four thematic committees are respectively tasked with reviewing and making recommendations on the future policies, while the Committee on digitalisation and simplification is tasked with creating Malta's first strategy for digitalisation and simplification in education.</p> <p>The Ministry for Education set up 4 working group to review the Learning Outcomes Framework. Each working group was focused on one of the following school years: Years 102, Years 3-6, Years 7-8, and Years 9-11.</p> <p>Open-ended research was carried out with educators at Maria Regina College. This fed into the design of two closed-ended surveys, one for parents and one for educators (all grades) across state, independent and Church schools. These surveys consider respondents' experiences of and attitudes towards the Learning Outcomes Framework, the related assessment tasks and reporting system. Data collection of both surveys took place in January 2023.</p> <p>The aim of this exercise is to present a report on the findings, with recommendations for the way forward.</p>
	<p>A Bilingual Glossary of Mathematics Terms: The Early and Junior years published for consultation</p> <p>Launched by the National Literacy Agency (NLA) and the Department for Learning and Assessment Programmes (DLAP), the Glossary aims to provide words and expressions that can</p>	Implemented	Announced for consultation: 7 July 2022	<p>Consultation meetings with school representatives took place in October 2022.</p>

	be used as part of bilingual communication of mathematics at the Early years and Junior levels of education (ages 3-11 years).			
	<p>Data Warehouse Project</p> <p>A Data Warehouse is being set up, to systemically store data from various educational data sources within the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR), enabling historical and predictive analysis. This measure pertains to phase 2 of the Education aspect outlined in The Ultimate AI Launchpad – A Strategy and Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Malta 2030.</p>	Implemented	<p>Tender submission deadline: 30 August 2022</p> <p>Tender evaluation appeal period closes in January 2023</p>	Tender has been evaluated and bidders notified of the result.
	<p>New Autism Units within Middle Schools</p> <p>Two new Autism Units (physical spaces) have been completed and became operational in Middle Schools (Handaq and Ta' Paris). Such units are available for student usage as required.</p>	Implemented	Started being used: September 2021	A maximum of 16 students may benefit from the first two Autism Units set up. Two teachers and six Learning Support Educators have received additional training in inclusive pedagogy and in the delivery of a functional curriculum, with at least one teacher and two Learning Support Educators in each class. The training of teachers and LSEs was delivered in-house by practitioners at the National School Support Services (NSSS).
	<p>MCAST Apprenticeship Recovery Plan</p> <p>This plan allowed MCAST to encourage more companies to recruit students in apprenticeship programmes.</p>	Implemented	15.2021	This measure impacted around 1,700 students. It came to an end on 31 December 2022.
	<p>New Multi-Sensory Learning Rooms in Primary Schools</p> <p>Two new multi-sensory learning rooms (MSLR) (physical spaces equipped with equipment and trained education personnel) were established in Qawra Primary and St Joachim Marsascala Primary Schools.</p>	Implemented	Started being used: March 2022	Completed
	<p>Primary Students' Assessment Reform</p> <p>As from scholastic year 2022/2023, alternative examination papers for Maltese and English subjects will be discontinued for primary students with learning difficulties in Years 4 and 5.</p>	Announced	Start date: June 2023	<p>This measure will affect all students with learning difficulties attending Years 4-6 in the primary years (13,508 in academic year 2020/21).</p> <p>The alternative annual examinations papers for the Maths subject will be discontinued as of 2023/2024.</p>
	<p>Lessons on Demand for all students in Malta (TELESKOLA)</p> <p>A repository of recorded lessons, available online free of charge, were created covering curriculum elements applicable from pre-primary level (kindergarten 1) to secondary Year 11. Teleskola started to assist students impacted by school closures to stem the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it now remains a valuable source of revision and self-directed learning.</p>	Implemented	Scholastic year 2020/2021	<p>More than 10,500 lessons covering all subjects taught in Maltese schools to students in kindergarten 1 to Year 11 (58,047 students in 2020/21) are available online, free of charge, for all students.</p> <p>Link: https://teleskola.mt/</p>