



Malta

National Reform Programme

Annex Table 4

Reporting on SDGs: Description of Main Forward-Looking Measures and their Estimated impact

Ministry for Finance and Employment
April 2023

	List of main contributing measures	Estimated Impact of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)	Comments
SDG 1: No Poverty	Increase of €12.50 per week, including the COLA for Maltese and Gozitan pensioners.	The number of pensioners who will benefit from this measure will be approximately 98,000.	
	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.	The number of pensioners who will benefit from this measure will be approximately 9,000.	
	The process whereby the cost of living bonus is gradually paid in full to all pensioners who retired after 2008, which started in 2022, will continue.	The number of pensioners who will benefit from this measure will be approximately 98,000.	
	The portion of the service pension that is not taken into consideration for the purposes of the social security pension assessment will be increased by €200. Thus, in 2023, the exempted amount for this purpose will increase to €3,266.	The number of pensioners who are stand to benefit from this measure will be in the region of 4,000.	
	Service pensioners who are 72 years of age or over will continue to benefit from the improvement introduced in the past two years regarding the portion of their service pension commuted into a gratuity, which now will not be considered at all in their pension calculation.	The number of pensioners who are stand to benefit from this measure will be in the region of 4,000.	
	The widows' pension rate will gradually continue to be adjusted so that by the end of the legislature, it will equate to that previously received by their late spouse.	The number of widows who are stand to benefit from this measure will be approximately 14,000.	
	As of next year, workers who are receiving a widows' pension because they become widows or widowers at a young age will be entitled to the contributory unemployment, sickness or injury on duty benefits if they need them and according to the contributions they pay.	This measure attempts to aid widowers financially.	
	From next year two years of contribution credits will be given 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.	This measure is expected to impact those individuals whose health prevented them from work engagement.	
	An increase of €50 in the annual bonus will be granted for persons who have reached 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.	The number of beneficiaries who will benefit from this measure will be approximately 14,000.	
	The children's allowance will be increased by €90 for each child as part of the promise to gradually increase this allowance by €450 throughout the legislature.	The number of beneficiaries who benefitted from this measure stood at 40,742.	
	To date, the Foster Care Allowance stops immediately as soon as the parent adopts, but as of 2023, the benefit will no longer stop immediately but will begin to decrease gradually over a period of four years or until the child's 21st birthday, whichever comes first.	This measure will impact those families who decide to adopt with benefits being tapered gradually instead of immediately	
	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.	Impacting approximately 5,700 beneficiaries thus reducing poverty and social exclusion in all its dimensions.	
	In 2023, tapering of benefits will continue to improve 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.	Impacting approximately 1,200 beneficiaries thus reducing poverty and social exclusion in all its dimensions.	
	The cost of living adjustment for 2023 is €9.90 per week.	This measure affects all workers providing them with increases in disposable income.	
	A new COLA mechanism will be introduced for the most vulnerable.	Based on EUROMOD simulation, this measure is expected to decrease the at-risk-of poverty (AROP) rate by 0.58 percentage points. The elderly cohort will experience the highest reduction in AROP by 0.99 percentage points. The measure is also expected to increase disposable income of households at the bottom end of the income distribution. The number of households currently benefiting from this measure is 44,383 which translates to around 87,855 individuals; expected to increase marginally over the coming months.	
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, the amount for 2023 will rise to €14,968.	Pensioners will remain non-taxable on their pension income. It is expected that circa 70,000 pensioners will benefit from this measure.		
The introduction of a new limit concerning pensioners who were born from 1962 onwards, which will be tied to the highest pension such persons can receive.	It is expected that circa 70,000 pensioners will benefit from this measure.		
The tax refund is an incentive to individual taxpayers who are in gainful occupation. The value amounts between €60 and €140, with the highest refund being given to the lowest income earners.	Approximately 250,000 citizens will be benefiting from this measure.		

40% of the pension income will no longer be considered as part of the taxable income for those pensioners remaining active and continuing to work beyond retirement age.	It is expected that circa 70,000 pensioners will benefit from this measure.	
The In-Work Benefit for employees with atypical working hours whereby a one-time grant of €150 will be given to eligible active individuals will be extended in 2023. The first set of cheques for the 2022 budget measure were issued in December 2022. The second lot of cheques were issued in Q1 2023. Meanwhile Jobsplus will initiate the data collection and verification exercise related to 2023 Budget Measure.	The 2022 budget measure saw a total of 24,616 eligible individuals residing and employed in Malta receive a grant of €150.	
Professionals will be recruited to administer Care Plan for Social Housing Applicants and Beneficiaries in accordance to the needs of each new social housing tenant. The Care Plan shall be applicable to both applicants on the social accommodation waiting list and beneficiaries who have already been allocated a social accommodation unit.	The measure is estimated to impact around 25 households in its pilot project stage (up until July 2023) and then shall be extended to around 1,700 households which shall be allocated public housing in the coming months and years. The impact of the measure should also consist in fewer instances of delayed rental payments to the Authority, fewer instances of crime and disorder in the social accommodation communities around Malta and Gozo, increased social mobility in the cohort of public housing tenants, increased financial literacy and independence in the affected groups and better employment opportunities.	
A €10,000 grant will be given 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 1st 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.	The measure is estimated to impact around 3,500 first-time buyers each year and is estimated to increase the liquidity of this cohort by EUR 10,000 over the course of ten years. This should stimulate the beneficiaries into investing their earnings into productive ventures whilst keeping up with other housing expenses.	
The maximum value of the Deposit Payment Scheme will be increased by €50,000 up to a new maximum of €225,000.	The measure is estimated to impact hundreds of first-time buyers each year and should stimulate individuals and couples who are currently not in a position to purchase their residential property through an interest-free loan covering the down payment requested by commercial banks. This should also help stimulate social mobility and increase the number of people with immovable assets in Malta and Gozo.	
The capping of the Rent Benefit scheme's maximum benefit will be increased 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.	The measure is estimated to impact around 3,200 beneficiaries of the Private Rent Housing Benefit Scheme. The increase in the ceilings of the Scheme shall assist low-to-middle income households cope with their housing expenses and should also help to prevent and combat poverty and social exclusion in these vulnerable groups.	
Two prominent banks will enter the New Hope Guarantee scheme, while others are in advanced negotiations to participate. Under the New Hope Guarantee scheme, the Government will act as a guarantor to enable individuals with medical issues or disabilities to become homeowners.	This measure shall prevent social exclusion of vulnerable groups including persons with a disability and persons with chronic medical conditions by allowing them to own their property and fully participating in the property market.	
The reduction of stamp duty schemes for first-time buyers will be extended, as well as the second-time buyers and the purchase of property in Gozo for another year.	Around 6,300 prospective buyers will benefit from the reduction in stamp duty as a result of this scheme.	
Scheme for people whose house is built on land given in agricultural emphyteusis or leased.	This measure will give people the opportunity to buy the title of the land where they live in conformity that application pre-requisites are satisfied.	
Besides the €10,000 annual grant for heads of schools to ensure that students are not deprived of necessities such as food or other basic resources, the allocation of funds to schools should reflect the reality of that school. Together with schools and a team of multidisciplinary professionals, programmes aimed at addressing the challenges that children face will be designed. The schools with the largest intake of students coming from a difficult environment will receive a higher allocation, as well as all the resources necessary to conduct this programme.	This measure will create a more equitable education system in Malta by allocating funds to schools based on their specific needs, and providing an annual grant for heads of schools to ensure that students have access to basic resources. The design of programs aimed at addressing the challenges that children face, in collaboration with schools and multidisciplinary professionals, will also contribute to better educational outcomes for all students in Malta.	
As from the academic year 2022/23, parents/guardians enrolling in Scheme 9 can now receive all benefits, rather than choosing one out of five assistance at the start of the academic year. Such benefits include free uniform, a free daily healthy school lunch, free stationary, free photocopies and free extra-curriculum activities including SkolaSajf, Klabb 3-16 after school services and sports programmes through SportMalta. Besides this, each student on this scheme also receives free age-appropriate reading books.	Through this scheme around 2,000 disadvantaged students will benefit from a wider assistance provided by the State.	

SDG 2: Zero Hunger	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>The aim of this national policy is for Malta to succeed in developing a more sustainable and healthy food chain, with the aim of improving food safety, addressing the challenges that are affecting the sector and create new opportunities across the whole food value chain, including producers, processors, those who serve food, sellers and finally the consumers. Various discussions and consultations are currently underway with concerned parties, to identify measures that can strengthen the food chain from the regulatory, production, product diversification, access to land, finance sources, marketing, branding and certification aspects among others. Two studies; one on the viability of local food production, and another on the analysis of local food prices across the food value chain, are also currently ongoing. The results of these studies will help identify the areas of focus to strengthen the local food value chain, including areas for potential investment, which will feed into the development of the measures within the National Policy for Sustainable Food.</p> <p>The first frame of the Action Plan for Organic Food Production has also been drafted, which frame is being discussed with the parties concerned to concretize and plan the measures identified according to the priorities of the sector, and to identify the funding sources for implementation. The key measures within this plan will focus on creating a more sustainable and favourable system around the producer, strengthening organisational leadership in the field of organic production and stimulating the local markets towards organic food related investments.</p>	
	Work on the launch of an initiative for carbon farming has started in 2022. In fact, work started on first phase of the project with a pilot project, which will continue throughout 2023. The effect of the pilot project will be analysed and a strategy will be created.	The primary aim of the project is to maximise the use of agricultural land for food production, in line with the objectives of the Farm to Fork strategy. Through this project incentive grants will be provided to farmers with agricultural land which is not being used for agricultural activity (or is being used for low value production) to better utilise such land through the planting of fruit trees.	
	Amendments in the Agricultural Leases (Reletting) Act.	This amendment will give the board responsible for the valuation of the leases the tools to calculate a fair value for agricultural land. This way the price of land will remain proportionate to the income generated by agriculture activity and thus encourage farming activity.	
	There will be the redistribution of fresh fruit and vegetables in primary schools, while discussions to launch this initiative in secondary schools as well will be commencing.	The scheme is aimed at encouraging consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as educating and creating awareness about the role of these products, not only in one's diet but also in connection with our agriculture.	
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	Increase in the Carers Grant - this benefit will be increasing from €500 to a little over €4,500 per year and will be paid every three months.	Quantitative impact stands at approximately 500 beneficiaries.	
	Investment in the digitalisation of the health sector, including e-health.	The Digital Health Strategic Roadmap shall be addressing the needs of citizens, patients, and health professionals; it pursues the critical objective of further enabling patient-centred care with a particular focus in achieving tight system integration and continuity of care across the whole healthcare ecosystem; it looks at public health needs and the way in which anonymised data may be used to achieve advances in medicine and healthcare; it defines the essential ingredients for interoperability between healthcare IT systems; it describes essential governance structures and important enablers for successful digital transformation; and it presents the opportunities that digital health provides for radical innovation of healthcare.	
	<p>Next year the introduction of free medicines in the Government Formulary will continue:</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 gamete donation will start benefitting from the stimulating medicines that are complementary to the services offered by the Assisted Reproductive Technology Clinic (ART). The Government Formulary will also be updated to include a number of these free medicines. • 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 Patient Charter. • Chemotherapy Pumps that the patient can use in the comfort of their home, if and as prescribed by the treating consultant. 	<p>All boys born in the year 2000 and after will be impacted with regard to the HPV vaccine. With regard to medicines for those who suffer from multiple sclerosis, it is estimated that over 125 patients per year will benefit from high efficacy treatment for Multiple Sclerosis at an estimated annual cost of EUR 1.1 million.</p> <p>A wider range of people will benefit from medicines that treat diabetes and osteoporosis. With regard to the specialised nutrition formulas, hundreds of patients will be impacted. The impact of the measure with regard to stimulating medicines is expected to be minimal. No changes are being anticipated to the list of stimulating medicines that are currently being prescribed.</p>	
	The introduction of Oncology Clinics at the primary care level as well as Diabetes Centre at the Qormi Health Centre and the introduction of Genitourinary (GU) Clinics in the community.	<p>The Community Oncology Clinic is a Primary HealthCare service which will affect all cancer-survivor patients after being confirmed by SAMOC as cancer-free, facilitating outreach services.</p> <p>Approx. 44,000 patients suffering from diabetes condition (as per Schedule V) shall benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care of Diabetes Patients closer to their community - Enhanced Specialist Multidisciplinary care for Patients requiring this additional care <p>With the introduction of Genitourinary (GU) Clinics in the community, a good proportion of clients attending the MDH GU clinic (around 80%) will be reviewed and treated in the community. This will result in greater satisfaction from our clients as well as greater equitable access to this service.</p>	
	The services provided by the ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology) Clinic, which provided support to those who wanted a first child, but had infertility problems, will be extended to those who want a second child.	This will lead to the increasing accessibility of the medical procreation service assisted to prospective parents.	
Pre-Implantation Genetic Testing (PGTM) will also be offered in accordance with the protocol of the Embryo Protection Authority.	On the 1st year it is assumed that there would be 15-20 additional cases; the following year 4-5 per year.		

<p>The Nurse Navigator service will be extended to the Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre (SAMOC) so that, from the date of diagnosis to the end of the whole process, breast cancer patients and their family members will be assisted as necessary.</p>	<p>Approx. 35 patients a month who are currently receiving breast cancer treatment will benefit from this service. Added recurrent cost for recruiting a new Practice Nurse Navigator with special interest in Breast Cancer. This project will help to make the cancer care process more coordinated and reduce the gaps that the patient may face and thus provide earlier treatment. The measure will help to increase access to care, to further coordinate the stages along the pathway and to have efficient continuity of care. It will also reduce waiting times for patients to be diagnosed with breast cancer and increase access to information and supportive care for the patient and families.</p>	
<p>Patients residing in Gozo who have completed cancer treatment will benefit from the service of the Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA) Clinic, offered at the Gozo General Hospital.</p>	<p>Approx. 200 oncology patients a year (Gozitans) who currently travel to Malta (MDH/SAMOC) for a Survivorship Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA) appointments will benefit from this service at GGH. These Gozitan patients will benefit from this measure in the post-treatment phase. The measure will increase the convenience for Gozitan cancer patients who would not need to travel to Malta to receive such services. Added recurrent cost includes travelling expenses for the Survivorship Team to Gozo. This project will help to make the cancer care process more patient-centred, enhance access to care, and reduce the challenges such patients may face especially regarding travelling difficulties. It will also reduce waiting times for patients to be supported by the Survivorship Team nearer to their homes in Gozo.</p>	
<p>The services currently provided within the Child Development Assessment Unit (CDAU) and the Child and Young People's Service (CYPS) will be centralised in a major state-of-the-art centre so that the service provided is consolidated and integrated according to the needs of the children.</p>	<p>Circa 950 new cases attending CDAU and circa 450 new cases attending CYPS including Malta and Gozo are expected.</p>	
<p>Long-term investments in infrastructural projects will continue in the coming years. Among these are: -the project for the construction of a new Blood Bank, -the project for the new Outpatients building and the Underground car park at Mater Dei Hospital, -the Ċensu Moran Regional Centre in Paola, -the modernisation of the wards in Mount Carmel Hospital as well as the renovation and modernisation projects of smaller Health Centres and Community Clinics (Bereġ). -There is also the investment in the infrastructure of the Medical Imaging Department, as well as the third Cardiac Catheterisation Suite.</p>	<p>The new blood bank 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. The new Outpatients will have the highest-level of smart building technology, so that the service given to the patient is the best possible. Furthermore, the investment in community health centres and clinics and the expansion of services from such clinics, will cater for the growing demand for primary health care services that reflects the growing and aging population by: -Early detection and timelier intervention. -Reducing the need for patients to visit / be referred to MDH -Decreased waiting lists for consultations as a result of either the provision of new or enhanced services by Primary Healthcare or investment in medical equipment that allows for a better diagnosis in this environment. -Reducing socio-economic inequality through greater accessibility to the services offered by Primary Health Care in Community Health Centres and Clinics. With regard to medical imaging, in the last decade, diagnosis of most medical and surgical conditions relies on non-invasive imaging - most often in the form of CT and/or MRI. In the past 2 years, MDH has been offering imaging studies that were previously only available abroad - this includes specialised oncological imaging, cardiac imaging, prostate imaging, and CT Colonography. This has resulted in an exponential increase in imaging requests, and in an increasing waiting list for both CT and MRI. The investment in the infrastructure of the Medical Imaging Department (MID) and MDH will therefore cater for : -26-30 radiologist reporting stations -10-12 radiographer administrative stations -An office for radiation protection staff (3 pax)</p>	
<p>Sheltered accommodation will support assisted community living, and persons suffering from addiction shall also benefit from this.</p>	<p>Decrease in hospital admissions/ Decrease in risk of institutionalization -Decrease in homelessness -Possible Decrease in crime -Less stigma/discrimination and inclusion of persons with dual-diagnosis and substance use disorders -Better quality of life for persons with dual-diagnosis and substance use disorders -Affordable housing -Increased possibility of abstinence from substances and recovery -Better chance of finding employment and thus Less dependence on social benefits</p>	
<p>A Therapeutic Centre for those with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and addiction will be introduced.</p>	<p>This service is expected to cater for patients with dual diagnosis. These patients are currently being seen in third party clinics (FSWS or Caritas); community mental health clinics or not attending services because they are not meeting inclusion criteria for current services. The population of patients with dual diagnosis is increasing steadily as stimulant drug use has increased exponentially. It is envisaged that this service will be catering for a bigger number of patients each year as the rate of acceptance into the service will exceed the rate of discharge from the service (due to chronic nature of substance use disorders). The amount of service users receiving the service will depend on the availability of professionals. As a start a reasonable estimate would be 50 clients/patients per month. If the service were to be fully staffed to run on a 40 hour week schedule then a conservative estimate would be 200 patient encounters per month - this would include any or all of psychiatrist, social worker, psychotherapist and nurse encounters.</p>	
<p>An Academy for Recovery and Wellbeing will be launched so that service users, carers and professionals can obtain the necessary education on how to reduce stigma, increase knowledge in this area and take the best preventive initiatives.</p>	<p>During the first few months of operation, the Academy is expected to directly impact an estimated 100 families. This is expected to increase exponentially and will contribute towards a more resilient community. This project will empower service users and their families, to be active participants in prevention, promotion of resilience and care plan management. Inclusion of service users as experts by experience, will improve clinical outcomes and reduce stigma. As an organisation, MHS will be positioning itself as a leader in mental health education, focusing less on disease and more on prevention.</p>	

<p>In the coming years, the new Acute Psychiatric Care Hospital will be built 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>	<p>A tender for the design and build of the hospital has been awarded to a firm of architects. The architects are having regular meetings to develop the concept design whilst consulting the medical brief and outcomes from stakeholder meetings. The proposed hospital shall have around 144 acute in-patient beds. For instance in 2021, there were 1819 admissions to Mount Carmel hospital. Please note that some of the patients may have been admitted more than once.</p> <p>The day hospital will cater for around 25 patients per day. There will be Out Patient clinics which will assess thousands of patients per year.</p>	
<p>The Mental Health Services (MHS) will be promoting a policy of promotion, prevention and support on a macro level in order to increase education on mental health at the workplace.</p>	<p>Mental health and wellbeing is key to an economically healthy society and mental health is an important driver of labour market outcomes and thus affects economic growth. Work-related stress increases the risk of emotional and mental health difficulties and also can result in increased costs due to absenteeism from work, lower productivity levels and increased demand on the health care system. Thus, the need for interventions that monitor workplace environment and encourage good mental wellbeing is a win-win situation for both employers and employees alike. Initially the aim is to address Mental Health Services as the place of work and therefore this will impact on the 1,400 persons who work within MHS. If this model / approach is successful, there is the potential for it to be implemented across the whole Ministry of Health.</p>	
<p>The investment of the digitalisation of the health sector, including the digitalisation of the Department of Pathology.</p>	<p>1.The measure will benefit the entire population of the Maltese Islands. 2.The measure will result in more accurate cancer diagnoses for patients thus improving patient cancer survival rates. 3.The measure will reduce the turnaround times, allowing patients to receive the diagnoses more quickly and timely resulting in reduced patient anxiety.</p>	
<p>A wider range of people will benefit from medicines that treat diabetes and osteoporosis through the introduction of free medicines in the Government Formulary.</p>	<p>Osteoporosis: It is estimated that over 11,000 patients will benefit from treatment for osteoporosis at an estimated annual cost of EUR 1.4 million Diabetes: It is estimated that approximate 2,510 patients will benefit from treatment related to diabetes at an estimated annual cost of EUR 2.4 million.</p>	
<p>The introduction of GP Appointment Clinics in Health Centres.</p>	<p>This service will support the reduction in patients waiting to be seen by a GP as walk-in. This will consequently have a positive impact on the waiting time for service delivery as well as quality of care (the GP appointment clinic slots are scheduled at 20 minute slots dedicated to the holistic management of the patient).</p>	
<p>Patients with high blood sugar levels will continue to be monitored through the Remote Patient Monitoring project.</p>	<p>This measure will result in improvements in sugar control and reduced hospital admissions among patients participating in remote monitoring for Type I Diabetes.</p>	
<p>Works on the Gozo Aquatic Centre will continue.</p>	<p>This measure will ensure healthy lives and promotes well-being of citizens of all ages. Aquatic Sports Groups and the general public will benefit from this project that is unique in its kind in the island of Gozo. Furthermore, this project will promote sports tourism in Gozo when water sports tournaments and similar activities are organised.</p>	
<p>Increase in the hours and establish the minimum number of Physical Education lessons. Studies are ongoing on a pilot project to move towards a model where children have one session of physical activity a day.</p>	<p>Implementing more PE hours and establishing a minimum number has potential benefits for students' physical health, socialization, mental well-being and cognitive function.</p>	
<p>SDG 4: Quality Education Increase of the tax rebate from €100 to €300 per year for parents who send their children to artistic or cultural activities.</p>	<p>This measure supports over 1500 families with the educational development and nurturing of culture and creativity of children and youth.</p>	
<p>The Youth Guarantee scheme will continue with an investment of around €10 million. Participants are provided with financial and personalised support to optimise their employability through individualised training and mentorship opportunities. Additionally, employers are also incentivised to offer training to prospective employees with the option to retain and recruit at the conclusion of that training. Thus, employers have the opportunity to evaluate prospective candidates and ensure that new recruits are equipped with the necessary entry skills and familiarity with organisational culture.</p>	<p>This scheme systematically reduces the rate of early school leavers and the number of unskilled and low skilled workers in the Maltese labour market. Through targeted measures which match industry needs, the supply of specialised skills is improved while the skills gap is narrowed.</p>	
<p>Training schemes for both job seekers and employers administered by Jobsplus including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training Pays Scheme whereby employees are incentivised to develop their skills or acquire new ones to strengthen their career prospects. At the same time, employers' benefit from a better skilled and more motivated workforce. - The Work Exposure Scheme to facilitate the transition into employment by providing jobseekers with hands-on training. Employers are given access to a wider pool of resources with the benefit of training potential recruits. - The Investing in Skills Scheme (IIS) whereby employees are given the opportunity to improve their skills and increase their prospects for advancement within their employer organisation, while employers receive financial support for investment in human capital to upgrade the skills profile of their organisation and boost productivity. - The Access to Employment Scheme provides financial aid to enterprises to facilitate the integration in the labour market of the harder to place jobseekers, unemployed and inactive. - The VASTE Programme to bring vulnerable persons closer to the labour market through training and job exposures opportunities 	<p>The Training Pays Scheme facilitates the mobility of the workforce and thus boosts labour market adaptability to changing trends. The Work Exposure scheme will provide skills development opportunities to enhance participants' capacities to work and their opportunities at work, leading to higher productivity.</p> <p>The IIS is key to maintaining economic resilience and is instrumental in narrowing the skills gap in key sectors of the Maltese labour market.</p> <p>The Access to Employment scheme contributes to the creation of a more just and inclusive labour market and reduces the number of inactive persons.</p> <p>Lastly, through the VASTE, Jobsplus seeks to eliminate employment barriers of persons with disability and other vulnerable groups through interventions targeted to maximise the individual's skills and abilities combined with a focused and personalised job matching process.</p>	
<p>The building of a new Child Care Facility in Victoria, Gozo</p>	<p>This will be a new facility in Victoria. The child care center will offer parents the possibility to continue with their career while their children attend the child care center.</p>	

	Students' stipends will increase on a pro-rata basis.	This measure affects all students providing them with increased disposable income in the face of increased prices and provides incentive for continued studying. During academic year 2020-2021, student enrolments in post-secondary and tertiary education increased by 3.3% over the preceding academic year.	
	During 2023, the work at the Hal Ghaxaq School, the Msida School and the Rabat Primary School, as well as the construction of a sports complex at the Santa Luċija School, will be completed. Works on continue on the Nadur School in Gozo, the renovation of the Primary School in Victoria Gozo and the extension and renovation of the Middle School in Victoria, Gozo.	The objective of the investment is to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy demand, lower carbon emissions and limit energy waste in two public schools. The investment shall make the selected schools carbon neutral, increase the use of renewable energy and improve the learning environment within these schools through the optimisation of indoor health, air quality and comfort. This renovation, which is to be completed by the end of 2023, shall achieve a reduction of primary energy demand (PED) of at least 30%.	
	There will be the extension of the one tablet-per-child initiative and a new laptop will be given to each seventh-year student starting from the next scholastic year.	The laptop will include digital learning content and aid to promote 21st Century skills and further reduce the digital divide. According to Eurostat data, in 2019, 55.82% of Maltese citizens had at least basic digital skills; this has increased to 61.23% in 2021.	
	There will be the strengthening of existing scholarship and tax credit programmes for those students who wish to continue their studies at Master's and Doctorate levels, also using funds under the European Social Fund.	Between 2021 and 2022, the scholarship budget was increased and the capping of funds available to each student also increased, as follows: Scholarship: Tertiary Education Scholarship Scheme (TESS) Aspect: MQF7 blended, part-time, full-time or distance learning 2021: €8,000 2022: €10,000 Scholarship: Malta Sports Scholarships Scheme Scholarship Aspect: Awardees with a disability 2021: No benefit 2022: €1,000	
	The National STEM Community Fund will be strengthened.	This fund seeks to motivate local communities to engage in STEM activities on a larger scale and to raise their understanding of STEM. The fund will also help to further promote interest in STEM-related courses and occupations, especially among youths and students. In 2021, STEM graduates increased by 15.4% compared to the preceeding year.	
	The finalisation of the works on the Olympic-size swimming pool in Bormla.	The pool is poised to be one of the best complex's in the Mediterranean and will raise the level of aquatic sports in Malta.	
	The finalisation of sports facilities at the former Maria Assunta school.	Children will have a facility which helps them practice their sport and continue developing the #OnTheMove programme carried out by SportMalta.	
	Preparations for the Small Nations Games for Malta to successfully host in 2023.	The games will have over 1,200 participants and officials from small European countries, who will compete in a number of disciplined sports. This will raise Malta's profile in the world of sports and will be a catalyst for growth and inspiration for future athletes.	
	Preparations for the UEFA Under-19 European Championship in 2023.	This will be beneficial for the Maltese football community given that while it will attract thousands of spectators from all around the world, it will provide opportunities for aspiring players to make a career out of playing professional football in Malta. It will also increase exposure for Maltese players on an international level which can only be beneficial for the future of Maltese football.	
	The increase of the tax rebate from €100 to €300 per year for parents who send their children to sport activities.	It can encourage parents to enroll their children in sports, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle, and also reduce the financial burden of sports participation. Additionally, it can support the development of youth sports programs and stimulate the local economy by increasing demand for sports-related goods and services.	
	ITS will be extending its academic scope to programmes up to MQF 7 accredited by the Institute itself.	With the extension of scope the Institute of Tourism Studies will be able to develop and accredit a minimum of one study programme at MQF level 7 each year and additional degrees based on industry needs. In addition the self-accreditation up to MQF level 7 will strongly facilitate academic partnerships with foreign institutions (both EU and non-EU).	
SDG 5: Gender Equality	After the recent changes that acknowledge femicide in the Criminal Code, we will strengthen the inter-ministerial committee to ensure more holistic work by all Government entities as well as by national stakeholders and non-governmental organisations. This must be done concurrently with the strengthening of the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence.	The acknowledgement of femicide in the criminal law is not only intended to create an extended deterrent to those who abuse from the vulnerability of the female population and to safeguard the well being and safety of the female population, but also to ensure more holistic work by all Government entities and NGOs, which would only strengthen the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, alongside many professionals who work in this sector.	
	Conducting training programmes for professionals in the field of Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, including police officers, professionals in the health and social sectors, educators and the judiciary.	The training to professionals shall pave the way to the up skilling of professionals with greater awareness, sensitisation and knowledge on how to behave with victims and how to better identify victims of violence.	
	Investigation of cases of alleged discrimination by the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality's (NCPE) on the grounds of gender, among other grounds.	Victims of discrimination can seek redress and have equality restored.	
	Research study conducted by NCPE on the prevalent gender role perceptions and attitudes among adults living in Malta.	The results of this research will continue to shed light on the extent to which the patriarchal mentality is still present in society and the impacts it has on the opinions and attitudes of the Maltese population.	
	The NCPE will continue awarding the Equality Mark Certification to organisations that make gender equality one of their values and whose management is based on the recognition and promotion of the potential of all employees: both women and men, and persons with caring responsibilities.	Awarded organisations will be supported to develop and implement best practices in the area of gender equality.	
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	Extension of schemes for the restoration of wells in old residential homes.	The measure has the potential to target 40 households with a budget allocation of 40,000 Euro.	
	Introducing measures that include the reuse of treated greywater and the treatment of wastewater from businesses or enterprises that operate along the coast.	This scheme would lead to the production of 36 million litres of reclaimed water for internal reuse during the first year, rising to 109 million litres per year by the end of the three year period. This would be reflected in a lower input of water supply to these enterprises, and hence resulting in an effective water demand management application.	

	Work is underway to replace around 40 kilometres of old water mains, 25% of which have already been replaced.	A qualitative improvement in the quality of drinking water supplied is envisaged. This measure targets ageing network related rusty water quality issues.	
	A new water transfer main will be installed between the Reverse Osmosis plant in Ċirkewwa and the Ta' Qali reservoirs with an investment of €11 million.	This measure is intended to increase the transfer line capacity between Ċirkewwa and Ta' Qali by 35%, namely 4,000 cubic metres per day.	
	The installation of a main that will deliver water from Naxxar to Salini at a cost of €3.5 million.	Upgrade of a transfer line between Naxxar and Salini peak demand pressure by 30%.	
	Project that will address sewage overflows in the Marsa area. Elimination of CSOs to Menqa tal-Marsa and inland sewage overflows in Triq is-Sajjieda, Marsa during wet weather.	Circa 150 residents living in the area will be positively impacted.	
SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy	Investment will continue in Enemalta's Distribution Network.	To improve service quality and ensure that the electricity grid can withstand electricity from renewable sources.	
	Extension of schemes for the installation of solar panels and batteries for renewable energy storage.	This measure has the potential to target 1,300 households with a budget allocation of 4M Euro for PVs and 194 households with a budget allocation of 0.7M Euro for batteries.	
	Extension of schemes for heat pump water heaters and solar water heaters.	This measure has the potential to target 600 households with a budget allocation of 0.8M Euro for SWH and HPWHs.	
	8MW will be allocated as a Feed-In Tariff (FIT) scheme for photovoltaics of less than 40kWp for houses, while the FIT schemes will be extended for residential houses over 20 years.	Maximising the use of renewable energy to make lower impact on our environment.	
	By mid-March of this year, the amount of charging pillars made available to the public is 182. Work is currently ongoing on the modernisation of 56 of the existing charging pillars to become interoperable, and at the same time, convert single point charging pillars to dual point charging pillars and replacing 10 medium chargers to fast chargers. The Government plans to continue increasing the number of charging points in the coming years.	The measure shall expand the public EV charging infrastructure and shall thus incentivise the change from ICE to EV vehicles.	
	The Multi-Material Recovery Facility, will start operating in Hal Far. This will help in the recycling of various materials which otherwise would end up in the landfill.	The Multi- Material Recovery Facility will be receiving large recycled material for pre-sorting and storage with the ultimate aim to be reducing the amount of waste being landfilled.	
	Launching a project of around €50 million on an Organic Processing Plant so that Malta can also be more efficient in this area and maximise the use of waste in our country. In fact, this plant will yield both electrical energy and compost for the agricultural sector.	This project will reduce the environmental impact generated from waste management through the generation of renewable energy and compost. The generated energy will be directed to the Maltese islands' national grid whilst the compost generated will be directed to the agricultural sector. Thus such project is will improve the environmental well-being of our country.	
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	The implementation of Malta's Civil Aviation Policy. The purpose of the Malta's Civil Aviation Policy is to give strategic direction and specific objectives for the advancement of the aviation sector while also highlighting and strengthening the critical role of aviation in Malta.	The core objectives of Malta's Civil Aviation Policy is to further promote sustainable growth within this sector by striking the right balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions. This policy sets out to creating opportunities in supporting high quality employment, while enhancing Malta's position within the global aviation sector, optimising the economic impact of aviation in Malta, synergising aviation with relevant sectoral policies, exploiting the potential of the aviation with relevant sectoral policies and the potential of this sector in Malta and Gozo, monitoring and containing costs across the aviation value chain and promoting and supporting emerging aviation niches.	
	The incentives introduced in 2016 for people who remain in employment after reaching the retirement age bore fruit. Therefore, a process will start in order to extend these incentives to those officers of the Disciplinary 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. 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 will be introduced.	The Measure will impact Disciplinary Corps members through a more generous service pension, whilst incentivising the delay retirement.	
	Work will begin on Recommendations 38, 39 and 40 of the National Employment Policy document, where it will be ensured that our country has the visibility and knowledge necessary to introduce sensible policies in the area of third-country workers. Measures include strengthening the market analysis research capacity to facilitate the temporary and cyclical needs of both the worker and the employer using technology, as well as evaluating the needs of businesses and the skills that the market cannot currently satisfy.	This measure will enhance sustainable growth by finding the right balance between economic migration levels and the impact on the environment and the national utility infrastructure. The job opportunities to be created must provide a fair income, social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration.	
	The concession on a reduction in stamp duty will be extended from 5% to 1.5% when family businesses are transferred inter vivos to their children or to younger generations.	Around 30 children or younger generations shall benefit from this measure when family businesses are transferred in this manner.	
	Investment in the infrastructure of the Malta Film Studios (MFS) will continue with the building of the first sound stages in our country.	Investing in infrastructural development for dedicated spaces and fully operational studios will result in a steady stream of audio-visual and film productions which supports job growth and/or retention and contributes to the nation's total economic activity. In addition, a new sound stage studio space are key to attracting and servicing more and larger inbound productions. It would enable more simultaneous productions, year-round, and for longer periods, combined in a triple offer of water tanks, locations, and sound stages. Benefits resulting directly from this investment are expected to materialise across the board, influencing employment, tax contributions, and other spill-over economic components. This excludes added contributions induced by 'screen tourism', national export figures and other wider cultural and educational benefits. Consequently, this investment will not only secure MFS's industry competitiveness but the wider national industry longevity, achieving more crew availability year-round, generate more employment and create job stability.	

Investing in the education and training of people in the film industry to strengthen the quality and competitiveness and allow more Maltese people to work in productions that choose our country.	Human resources are instrumental in any strategy, and the industry must ensure that the needs of the sector and the current capabilities of Malta's labour force are aligned. A strong pool of specialised professionals will help the sector offer a complete package and complement what it already provides. In doing so, it will maximise local spend and avoid productions importing talent for the period of a shoot. It is crucial that the workforce is responsive to the skills demanded by the industry. If we are to fill in any gaps, maintain our competitive edge and attract inward productions, we need to make sure that new entrants have the right technical know-how and work ethic. Existing crew must be given the opportunity to move into higher positions and confirm our ability to cater for any increase in production volume. We should also encourage	
The creation of a sustainable career-based film industry that continues to shift from a seasonal sector to a sector that offers work all year round.	We need a workforce that can provide a better service to foreign productions, where creative and aspiring individuals are encouraged to start producing their own films and content for the global market. Having a balance of local and foreign productions will establish an all-round sector and a thriving ecosystem which creates and/or retains jobs, contributes to Malta's overall economic activity, and increases the availability of local content and stories. A coordinated approach is required to excel in supplying and meeting the needs of the industry with a professional and trained workforce. Stakeholders such as educational institutions (public/private) providing career pathways in this sector, together with trainee/apprenticeship programmes and scholarship opportunities will enhance the local workforce and provide the foundation for growth. A skilled workforce would impact the sector by generating job revenue, reduce unemployment benefits, and allow this sector to be recognised for its contribution to Malta's GDP and eventual sustainability.	
The Foundation for the Development of Tourism Zones will become the Agency for the Regeneration for Development of Tourism Zones. The Agency will continue to focus on the formulation and implementation of regeneration plans, as well as on the introduction and implementation of the Town Centre Management concept with a pilot project in Paceville, beach maintenance and the protection of the holistic environment of tourism zones.	<p>The 1st Regeneration Plan will have a positive effect on the circa 30,000 population of the area of St Paul's Bay that increases to over 70,000 in summer, in addition to the influx of tourists in the area. The Regeneration Plan will aim to improve, amongst others, the social, economic, spatial, tourist attractions to the area once the Plan is completed in 2024 and will start to be implemented in phases in the following years.</p> <p>The pilot project in Town Centre Management for Paceville will aim to provide a better leisure and entertainment hub in terms of safety, cleanliness, internal movement, mix of services offered and this will be achieved by attaining the UK based accreditation of the Purple Flag. This process might take up to 3 years to be achieved. The general improvement shall affect over 300 service provider in Paceville and the several thousand visitors to the area.</p> <p>With regards to beach management and the general environment of touristic places, the Agency works closely with the MTA and Local Councils. Beach assets are set up and disassembled on an annual basis pre and after summer respectively, these include 15 showers, 8 lifeguards, 5 changing rooms and several walkways and stairs. Together with the Local Councils in 2022, around 200 benches were repaired and painted and a number of areas were embellished. These measures should improve the general environment of the tourism zones but will also improve the wellbeing of the residents. Efforts will continue in 2023, as per budget and manifesto measures, to continue improving the assets and general environment of the tourism zones.</p>	
A one-stop shop will be launched under the brand Start in Malta. This one-stop shop will offer assistance services so that more start-ups can establish themselves in our country as well as assistance in the applications of the schemes administered by Malta Enterprise and other entities in our country.	The one-stop shop will offer a coordinated front to established and / or new startups. This is part of Government strategy to offer a simplified manner in which startups (local & foreign) can tap the offered assistance.	
The EU Start-ups Summit will also be launched in our country. This international conference will bring some of the best European start-ups to our country. The first summit is to be held in 2024.	It is envisaged that such a summit will see the participation of circa 1,800 delegates mostly startups.	
<p>The scheme that recognises the investment made by groups of companies to support businesses affected by Covid-19 will be extended.</p> <p>Those groups of companies having unabsorbed or unutilised capital allowances in 2020 and 2021 due to losses sustained during the pandemic will be able to apply for the relative tax deduction benefit against any taxable income derived by other companies forming part of the same group for the basis year 2022 (Year of Assessment 2023) as well.</p>	Measure will support businesses effected by Covid-19 pandemic.	
Maltese businesses will be able to benefit from the financial assistance of €50,000 in rental subsidy incentives instead of €25,000 per year for the first three years of this assistance. The period in which our businesses will be able to benefit from this scheme will be doubled from three years to a maximum of six years.	The Rent Subsidy scheme has the objective to reduce the pressure from businesses seeking the allocation of publicly owned industrial space and facilitate the restructuring of logistic operations in eligible sector so that may mitigate disturbances in the market that effect the competitiveness of the business.	
<p>The scheme that recognises the investment made by groups of companies to support businesses affected by Covid-19 will be extended.</p> <p>Those groups of companies having unabsorbed or unutilised capital allowances in 2020 and 2021 due to losses sustained during the pandemic will be able to apply for the relative tax deduction benefit against any taxable income derived by other companies forming part of the same group for the basis year 2022 (Year of Assessment 2023) as well.</p>	Measure will support businesses effected by Covid-19 pandemic.	
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A number of benefits that are currently available only to commercial companies will be extended to Social Enterprises established in our country. The first scheme that will be extended to social enterprises is the Micro Invest scheme which has been amended to include social enterprises as part of the eligibility criteria.	Social enterprises will now benefit from an increase of €20K (up to a maximum of €70K) of the total aid that may be awarded over any period of three consecutive fiscal years.	
Work will begin on various extensions of factories established in Malta. The area on which the extension is being built was previously disused and derelict.	Enhanced workflows and a significant increase in productive capacity, as well as better parking, administrative and welfare facilities for employees.	
Re-opening of the scheme for shops that are owned by the Government and that are currently rented or given in emphyteusis, and that are located outside Valletta.	This scheme will be giving more stability to businesses and invest in their business by using the property as collateral for loans. Furthermore, this measure it aims to help businesses extend their lease or emphyteusis to a 45-year emphyteusis.	
When a company is not able to open a bank account, it can have wide-ranging negative effects, which make it difficult for the company to conduct financial transactions, access credit or loans, establish a credit history, and comply with regulations. A steering committee was set-up to work on establishing the right to a basic bank account for Businesses. The steering committee is made up of representatives from the FIAU, MFSA, MBR, Central Bank, MFE and MEFL. A technical sub-committee was set-up to look into existing EU jurisdictions where this right already exists. The committee is currently working on a draft legislative framework that would introduce the right in Malta. Once the legislative draft is concluded, the committee will be extended to include representatives from key stakeholders.	Establishing the right for a basic account for businesses will assist businesses in addressing the aforementioned challenges and make it easier for them to operate in our economy.	
Appointment of a Credit Review Office that facilitates both the interests of commercial banks and that of their clients regarding loan applications. A steering committee was set-up to work on establishing a Credit Review Office in Malta. The steering committee is made up of representatives from the FIAU, MFSA, MBR, Central Bank, MFE and MEFL. A technical sub-committee was set-up to look into existing EU jurisdictions where a Credit Review Office already exists. The committee is currently identifying whether to incorporate the function of the Credit Review Office within an existing structure, whilst also working on a legislative framework that would establish the Credit Review Office and outline it's functions.	Businesses will have the facility to be informed of the Bank's decision as to why the credit was refused. Whilst a complaints procedure exists, this will be refined to be more accessible and transparent.	
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.	The initiative will have a direct impact on the economy since it assists start-up companies in raising capital that allows them to start with their economic activities. The funds budgeted are expected to assist from 20 to 30 start-ups in commencing with their projects over the period 2023-2025. These start-ups would be engaging with projects in emerging industries, namely fintech and e-sports.	
Together with the Gozo Tourism Association, an incentive scheme will be launched to attract long stay tourism to the island of Gozo in partnership with tour operators so that Gozo enjoys more tourism in the low season.	The aim of this incentive scheme is to further attract international tourism to the island of Gozo for extended stays to ensure that Gozo enjoys more tourism in the low/winter season. The outcome of this will not only be an increase in the number of nights spent by tourists in Gozo, but also further consolidation of the concept of sustainable tourism and less emphasis on the island as a summer only destination.	
Publication of an information leaflet on adventure and sports Tourism in Gozo	The adventurous and sports tourism niches in Gozo are increasing in variety of disciplines and attraction. The publication of this booklet will serve to widen the awareness of these niches by disseminating the finalised product to local accommodation providers and in international tourism fairs.	
A promotional touristic campaign will be launched in collaboration with Jet2 Airline and with the main British travel agency, Jet2Holidays	The aim of this initiative is to drive sales to Gozo within the UK market, which remains the main market source of the Maltese Islands. With the airline already operating direct flights to Malta from eight different airports in the UK, this campaign will ensure that tourists visiting from the UK will be increasingly aware of Gozo as a distinct destination in itself, not merely a day-trip destination.	
The Gozo Employment Scheme, Gozo Back Office Employment Scheme and the Gozo Teleworking Scheme will be relaunched in order to sustain quality employment in Gozo	For the past years, the schemes have generated good results in sustaining high quality employment in Gozo. The extension of such schemes will ensure that employment in Gozo is retained by stimulating further investment by the private sector and help create more and better-quality job opportunities in Gozo, to attract highly skilled workers. The schemes will also contribute to reducing existing disparities in average basic salaries between Malta and Gozo.	
The Supporting the Adventurous Tourism Industry in Gozo through Hiring Equipment Refund Scheme, Supporting Marketing Initiatives for the Accommodation Sector in Gozo and the Supporting Marketing Initiatives for Specific Niche Markets in Gozo will be relaunched in order to strengthen Gozo as a distinct touristic and commercial destination	The extension of these three schemes will mostly support Gozitan SMEs which play a key role in promoting Gozo's touristic niches as well as accommodation providers to: - Invest in new rental equipment which encourages further tourists to use their services to explore the island of Gozo; - Promote the diversity of accommodation options on the island through digital marketing; and - Advertise the various touristic niches through both traditional and digital marketing means and attendance to international tourism fairs.	
The existing schemes in the conferences, meetings and exhibitions sector will be extended in order to increase the organisation of events of this kind in Gozo	These schemes will provide financial assistance to beneficiaries to either organize and host MICE activities in Gozo that reach quality standards, including, hiring of venue, catering services and touring activities; or undertake a project to restore and upgrade venue facilities to enhance the capability of hosting qualitative MICE activities.	

	<p>The incentives introduced in 2016 for people who remain in employment after reaching the retirement age bore fruit. Therefore, a process will start in order to extend these incentives to those officers of the Disciplinary Corps who continue to give their service after they have given 25 years of service. 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 will be introduced.</p>	<p>This initiative will give members of the Disciplinary Corps the opportunity to improve their pension by 23% after four years of additional service</p>	
	<p>Setting up of a steering committee to work on establishing the right to a basic bank account for Businesses. The steering committee is made up of representatives from the FIAU, MFSA, MBR, Central Bank, MFE and MEFL. A technical sub-committee was set-up to look into existing EU jurisdictions where this right already exists. The committee is currently working on a draft legislative framework that would introduce the right in Malta. Once the legislative draft is concluded, the committee will be extended to include representatives from key stakeholders.</p>	<p>When a company is not able to open a bank account, it can have wide-ranging negative effects, which make it difficult for the company to conduct financial transactions, access credit or loans, establish a credit history, and comply with regulations. Establishing the right for a basic account for businesses will assist businesses in addressing the aforementioned challenges and make it easier for them to operate in our economy.</p>	
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	<p>Over the next three years, the below projects will be completed and implemented: the Mriehel Underpass, the Hal Kirkop Tunnels, the Airport Intersection Project (AIP) and the Luqa Junction. There are new plans for the Msida Creek project and programmes to build residential roads in Malta and Gozo will continue.</p>	<p>The removal of traffic bottlenecks will reduce traffic congestion in urban areas; thus, giving prominence to more sustainable transport as well as promoting further modes of transport including cycling and pedestrian facilities. The AIP includes the redevelopment of this critical junction of the Maltese road network to reduce travel times and accident risks to commuters travelling through the Kirkop Tunnels, to and from Kirkop, Mqabba, Qrendi, Zurrieq and Safi, whilst introducing new facilities for alternative modes of travel. The new intersection design includes new footpaths and improved public transport amenities and also comprises new cycle lanes and safe cycle routes. It will also improve access to the Malta International Airport and to the Malta Freeport, two strategic locations for several sectors of the Maltese economy.</p>	
	<p>Works will commence on the Pinto and Lascaris Wharves with the aim of having a straight wharf for the docking of large ships.</p> <p>The proposed investment involves the reconstruction and extension of the existing dilapidated quay at Lascaris Wharf by approximately 1,960m² which will result in a new quay of 122m in length and which will accommodate vessels of up to 100m long. The extended quay will be a general purpose quay for berthing of ships and vessels that also provide necessary supplies to vessels in international waters. The quay will be equipped with an onshore electricity supply to meet the demands of ships up to 100m length.</p> <p>In addition, the development of Pinto extension coupled with the development of Lascaris wharf will create a straight continuous quay which can take large vessels up to 330m in length.</p>	<p>The development of Lascaris quay will contribute towards improving port management and operational efficiency and in turn reduce the waiting time for cargo vessels even further.</p>	
	<p>The electrification of the public transport fleet with an investment of millions of euro; a large amount of the fleet will consist of electric vehicles.</p>	<p>Such a measure will consist of the replacement of 102 fossil fuel buses with zero-emission electric buses for use on the public bus transport routes. These zero emission buses shall replace diesel buses in the current public transport stock (Euro 5 buses) to promote cleaner and more sustainable mobility means of public transport.</p>	
	<p>Commencement of works on the Bugibba and Marsamxett piers to increase connectivity by sea.</p>	<p>The benefits of this are anticipated to extend to the entire population in terms of air quality and to reduce traffic congestion during peak hours by encouraging a modality shift to other forms of transport. This will also result in faster travel times. In particular, the landing places shall offer improved and modern facilities to further attract the public and to further promote and enhance the use of sea transportation by the public in general between the major cities surrounding the Grand Harbour and beyond.</p>	
	<p>Financial incentives aimed at promoting cleaner and sustainable mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Financial grant of €11,000 for new electrical vehicles including motorcycles, with an additional €1,000 (rising to € 2,000 in Gozo) granted when scrapping a vehicle. -Scheme for the purchase of mopeds, pedelecs and bicycles assisted by an electric motor. -Financial grant which incentivises the purchase of small motorcycles that run on petrol as well as for those who convert their vehicle to run on gas instead of petrol. -Electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles 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. -Scheme for vehicles such as minibuses, coaches and trucks that have photovoltaic panels installed on top are given a grant up to a maximum of €900. -Scheme for minibus, coach and truck operators who install diesel particle filters (DPF) and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems. 	<p>These measures will help to encourage and boost the uptake of more cleaner vehicles and contributes towards mitigating CO2 levels of pollution.</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>The Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant has been designed to support and incentivise businesses to adopt and embrace the twin transition. The support cover investments and modifications in plant, machinery equipment and technologies that lead to a quantifiable reduction in CO2 emissions. It is envisaged that the scheme will support around 160 beneficiaries until 31st Dec 2023.</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.	Attracting new investment (including expansion of existing investments) in Gozo by introducing incentives from a Tax Credit under the Smart & Sustainability scheme of up to €40,000 per project. The objective of this scheme is to positively impact enterprises and encourage further investments.	
	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.	Through Smart & Sustainability Investment Grant scheme, investors will benefit from a maximum grant covering 50% of the eligible expenditure up to a maximum grant of €100,000 per project. Furthermore, a tax credit of up to €40,000 may be awarded per project in line with additional criteria. The objective is to enhance companies' competitiveness through the optimisation of the use of resources in their activities.	
	Financial instruments for businesses through the InvestEU programme. The InvestEU Financial Instrument has an allocation of €9.4M through the Partnership agreement. Furthermore, it will be topped up with Jeremie reflows amounting to circa €4.2M.	The InvestEU programme shall aid businesses in investments to enhance their competitiveness.	
	The private sector will continue to be incentivised in the area of digitalisation through grants, which shall cover self-employed persons who operate on a small scale under the Business Enhance programme with a €15 million grant.	The Business Enhance scheme will contribute to encourage further investments by enterprises in digitalisation initiatives and have a positive impact on both the same SMEs and the Maltese economy through sustainable development growth. At least 360 undertakings to receive support by Q2 of 2026.	
	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 the coming year.	The scheme will contribute to encourage investments by enterprises in the renovation of private sector buildings to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy demand, lower carbon emissions and limit energy waste through retrofitting actions. This with the aim to support and promote a greener and more sustainable economy.	
	Malta Enterprise, which manages the Kordin Business Incubation Centre, will be developing, through European funds, a new Business Incubation Centre equipped to be a top-quality touch-down facility for innovative Start-ups that continue to diversify Malta's economy.	The incubation centre will provide support and funding that start-up companies need to turn their ideas into profitable products and services through innovative technology. Incubators will have access to all the benefits of being part of a flourishing and unique network of innovative entrepreneurs and able to access a whole wealth of expertise.	
	The establishment of the Innovation Hub (DIH) project financed by European funds.	The Digital Innovation Hub (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.	
	Following the completion of the work on the incubator for start-ups in this sector, known as basecamp, this incubator will be entirely occupied by companies working from there by the end of this year.	The Basecamp initiative is an integral part of Government's holistic strategy to grow the video gaming and esports sector (quantitative) to 1% of GDP and 2500 employees by 2030. On a qualitative front Basecamp nurtures start-ups and high potential ventures in the space by strengthening the ecosystem, create an accelerator programme and instils innovation by also having immersive tech companies using this space.	
	Investment in research and innovation will be increased, including through a new Technology Extension Support programme with a substantial investment of €5 million, where through the participation of the private sector, innovative projects in various areas will be financed.	The Technology Extension Support Programme will form part of the FUSION portfolio (Vote 5424). 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 incentivize 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.	
	Participation in the Horizon Europe programme will be extended.	There has been a steady increase in Malta's participation in Horizon Europe, with Maltese entities managing to tap into more than 20 million Euro in funding since the start of the programme in 2021, with a huge opportunity for local researchers to collaborate with high-profile European and international researchers and entities, improving Malta's research profile.	
	Malta Enterprise, which manages the Kordin Business Incubation Centre, will be developing, through European funds, a new Business Incubation Centre equipped to be a top-quality touch-down facility for innovative Start-ups that continue to diversify Malta's economy.	The incubation centre will provide support and funding that start-up companies need to turn their ideas into profitable products and services through innovative technology. incubators will have access to all the benefits of being part of a flourishing and unique network of innovative entrepreneurs and able to access a whole wealth of expertise.	
	Grant schemes under the RRP amounting to €15 million aimed at businesses to invest in digitalisation	The Business Enhance scheme will contribute to encourage further investments by enterprises in digitalisation initiatives and have a positive impact on both the same SMEs and the Maltese economy through sustainable development growth. At least 360 undertakings to receive support by Q2 of 2026.	
	The grant scheme under the RRP for climate friendly renovation of commercial buildings in the private sector with a value of around €20 million.	The Business Enhance scheme will contribute to encourage investments by enterprises in the renovation of private sector buildings to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy demand, lower carbon emissions and limit energy waste through retrofitting actions. This with the aim to support and promote a greener and more sustainable economy. Renovation of at least 40,605m2 by Q4 of 2025	
	Enhancing the fast ferry service through new schedule with predetermined prices that fast ferry service operators would have to comply with.	This measure shall improve the connectivity between Malta and Gozo. The aim is to have an improved schedule hence provide a better service for the end users, mainly the daily Gozitan commuters.	
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	€4.2 million will be invested in the concept of Personal Assistants and Independent Community Living so that more persons with disabilities can reach their potential. This will be the first step to finalise the Personal Assistants reform over the coming year according to the European Network for Independent Living's guidelines.	Through this budget allocation it is expected that 410 individual with a disability will be able to have a personal assistant to enable them to lead an independent life. This will also incorporate in it a 25% increase on the financial package provided in the previous year to cover inflation rate.	
	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, a tax credit of €200 will be given to parents annually for each child with a disability.	700 children are being forecasted to benefit from this scheme.	

	After Agenzija Sapport added a 'drive from wheelchair vehicle' to its driving school, the Government launched a new scheme whereby a person buying a 'drive from wheelchair vehicle', can benefit from a 20% subsidy on the price of the vehicle which costs around 55K euro.	This will improve the level of independence for persons with disability.	
	Those who buy a second-hand modified car that is already registered (including cars equipped with lifts or ramps for wheelchair access) will be given the possibility to benefit from a maximum subsidy of 10% of the price of the car. This is in addition to the exemption from registration tax. In order for a vehicle of this type to qualify for the subsidy, its emissions must be below 180g CO ₂ .	This will improve the level of independence for persons with disability.	
	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 non-contributory Medical Assistance. This will also change from next year, 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.	The quantitative impact is expected to be minimal. Given the non-contributory nature of the benefit, such measure is expected to contribute towards reducing poverty and social exclusion in all its dimensions.	
	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 this average will be lowered 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.	Potential number of beneficiaries are as follows: Increased Carers Allowance - 1282 Carers Allowance - 355	
	Since there may be situations where people who are living together face legal restrictions in registering their cohabitation, changes will be introduced 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.	The quantitative impact is expected to be minimal. Given the non-contributory nature of the benefit, such measure is expected to contribute towards reducing poverty and social exclusion in all its dimensions.	
	To date, single persons who live alone on social assistance and move in with an elderly relative to take care of them would have their income reduced if they qualify for the Carer's Allowance. This is because they would no longer be entitled to social assistance since they would no longer be the head of the family, while the allowance rate they receive would be lower. As of 1st January 2023, people will still receive the same amount of benefit as before, and thus removing this anomaly.	The quantitative impact is expected to be minimal. Given the non-contributory nature of the benefit, such measure is expected to contribute towards reducing poverty and social exclusion in all its dimensions.	
	An instrument to reflect the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) mechanism within the public service has been established. The mechanism has respected the existing ratio of scale. Agreement has been reached within all 9 public service unions and increases have been effected in January payroll. The same exercise has been established for Public Service Entities.	Improved wages for the Public Administration employees to meet the cost of living increase.	
	A study will begin on the revision and harmonisation of Wage Regulation Orders. This study will be initiated in 2023 and will be finalised by November 2023.	This study will formulate proposals for adjustments and simplifications of the Wage Regulation Orders which will address any shortcomings in terms of statutory rights of workers.	
	Grant given to persons who have coeliac disease will be increased by €20 per month.	This measure will benefit Coeliac patients as it acts as a financial supplement to mitigate the increasing costs of gluten-free products. 1,900 patients are currently benefitting from the Coeliac scheme. The number of patients increases steadily year-on-year, at a rate of 9% - 10%. This means that it is expected to have an additional 150-200 patients per year.	
	Removal of the means test for social subsidies granted to persons with disabilities. All the income that comes from disability allowances in the computation of the means test for schemes issued by the Housing Authority will be disregarded. This will help people with disabilities live an independent life and have full access to the property and rental markets.	This measure shall impact the cohort of persons with a disability who are currently in receipt of social benefits from the Government and those who have so far been excluded from receiving some sort of housing assistance from the Housing Authority due to income derived from disability-related allowances. This shall mean that persons with disabilities shall have better access to the property and rental market, and shall be in a better position to receive acute housing assistance in the form of social or affordable accommodation.	
	Malta will be hosting the EuroPride event for the first time in history.	The hosting EuroPride will provide visibility to the LGBTIQ+ Community and also provide an insight on inequalities that persist. Various conferences including the Human Rights Conference of LGBTIQ+ Persons will be hosted, discussing various intersectionalities. Persisting inequalities will be discussed which may lead to further advancements in legislation.	
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	Completion of the restoration of the Grandmaster's Palace which is a major attraction and the official seat of the President of Malta.	The restoration of the Grandmaster's Palace will be showcasing the Maltese heritage	
	Continue investing in the restoration of the bastions.	This measure will contribute to the preservation of c. 3.58km of bastions, improving not only tangible heritage but also the quality of public spaces and quality of life of nearby communities.	
	Continue investing in the restoration of oratories, churches and chapels in several localities.	This measure will improve the tangible cultural fabric as well as the quality of public spaces and quality of life of nearby communities while developing new attractions for religious tourism.	
	Renovation of Villa Guardamangia, the only house outside the United Kingdom in which Queen Elizabeth II lived.	This measure will create a new niche-touristic attraction that reflects the 20th century history of Malta, apart from restoring a unique building of historic significance.	

Participation for the first time in the London Design Biennale and in the next edition of the Venice Biennale in 2024.	These measures will solidify Malta's standing within an international context in terms of design innovation and creativity while exploring and promoting practices that can contribute towards more sustainable urban development through creativity and innovation.	
Malta International Contemporary Art Space (MICAS) will see the completion of works on the balconies, the sculpture garden, the fourth phase of the project as well as the completion of the administrative offices.	It is expected that MICAS will attract 30,000 visitors per annum.	
Continue restoration works along the Victoria Lines, Gharghur area.	This measure will contribute to the preservation of c. 1km of the Victoria Lines, that include 800m of infantry lines as well as the remains of a pill box (uncovered during the works) whose restoration process has already reached completion.	
Restoration projects within the communities through the Restoration of Historic Places / Monuments in Malta 2021 Scheme. This measure will contribute to the preservation of 5 tangible cultural heritage sites, namely Ghajn tal-Hasselin (Msida), St Mary's Statue (Balzan), Sacred Heart Oratory (Mosta), Ta' Ċejlu Church (Marsa), the Lion's Column (Valletta) and St Paul's Church Parvis (Rabat).	This measure enhances not only the heritage fabric per se but significantly contributes to the improvement of quality of life of nearby communities.	
Continue working to have more Transport Malta (TM) officers on our streets.	This measure will help to enhance and enforce traffic regulations and improve behaviour of road users specially during traffic rush hours. From this measure TM will improve its officers skills and in collaboration with other enforcement entities will ensure road safety for all its users.	
Regeneration of three major buildings: Evans Building and the old fish market in Valletta, and the Chalet in Sliema.	Through these projects, direct investment by the private sector in projects that drive sustainable economic growth and increase employment in Malta, will be facilitated in a tangible way. The Evans Building & Old Fish Market Site in Valletta Projects aim to promote investment in the restoration of properties showcasing Maltese heritage and old derelict properties. Furthermore, the Chalet Project aims to reinstate the Chalet site into its former state.	
Continuation of the fiscal incentives for more aesthetic property.	These financial incentives aims to provide investment in the resortation and re-generation of all properties.	
In the first quarter of next year, a Board will be established to oversee new properties that are built and finished according to quality and aesthetic guidelines that are to be drawn up, so that the owners of such properties can also benefit from tax reductions and grants.	The set up of the new Board will ensure that the quality and aesthetic of properties is improved.	
The Maltese 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 was set up to coordinate the implementing innovative and green environmental projects within Maltese communities with an investment of €700 million over seven years. The first phase will see the launch of a number of projects in various localities, including Cospicua, Birzebbuga, Hamrun, Marsa, Siggiewi and San Ġwann. The agency will also coordinate green urban reclamation projects. One of the first is a project that will be carried out together with Wasteserv Malta at what was the Sant'Antnin recycling plant. This will be converted into another open area for families, to be added to several gardens. Furthermore, a site next to St Clement Park has been identified for the extension of this park. This will be complimented by the completion of works on the Park tal-Majjistral and further work on the Marsascalea Park.	This will lead to more gardens, urban greening projects and more open spaces that can be enjoyed by Maltese and Gozitan families	
Gozo will also benefit from around €60 million in investment under the Sustainable Urban Development initiative. The areas in which these funds will be invested will be determined next year so that the work related to this initiative can kick off immediately. The Sustainable Urban Development Initiative emanates from Article 11 of the ERDF/CF Regulation and its aim is to address economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges.	These measures will help in: - mitigating heat in urban areas. - lowering of greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. - achieving the objective of becoming carbon neutral. - rainwater control. - reducing the visual impact of the built environment and thus improving the urban image. - increasing urban biodiversity. - foster social cohesion. - improving the quality of life for Gozitans and its visitors.	
Work will continue on the construction of a Rural Airfield in Gozo, for which an application has been presented to the Planning Authority after extensive consultation.	The project will save travelling time and improve accessibility between Gozo and its mainland. In turn, this will enhance Gozo's potential to attract quality tourism. Apart from its contribution to the tourism sector, the project shall act as an enabler to the creation of new economic niches, activities and jobs. Such new economic niches and activities would represent enhanced academic and training opportunities, as well as enhanced employment opportunities in Gozo.	
The aqueducts bear testimony to Gozo's colourful millennial history as well as to our forefathers' ingenuity and skills. Work will start on the restoration of the aqueducts in the limits of Rabat Gozo at a value of €2.5 million. Furthermore, The restoration of several cultural heritage sites around Gozo will be continued. The facade of the building which is currently housing the Head Office for the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, situated on the way up to Cittadella, will be restored.	Their restoration would enhance the Maltese Government's efforts in promoting the island as a distinct tourist destination and offer an opportunity to establish new cultural experiences. Besides preserving our tangible cultural heritage, the restoration of the facade will help to give a more homogeneous appearance with the rest of the facades of other houses on the buffer zone of the Citadel.	

	Works on the Gozo Museum will continue. The Gozo Museum is aimed to establish a centralised hub showcasing Gozo's history along the years.	While ensuring that the local cultural heritage is protected such measure will serve as value added to Gozo's tourism sector as well as the national one, mainly through increased interest towards to the local heritage and hence more visitors. The main impacts will be in the form of added revenue for the local and national economies as well as added awareness towards our cultural heritage, both on a national and foreign level.	
	In order to continue sustain the digital transition, a virtual/augmented reality project has been recently developed, whereby a new and modern mobile app will consist of informative walking trails around Gozo with different multimedia and interactive means. These elements will expose information on flora, fauna and cultural heritage, complemented with audio guides in different foreign languages.	This mobile app is hereby digitalising 9 country and coastal walks which are normally followed through printed booklets. Apart from further embarking the evermore invoked concept of smart and digital tourism, the mobile app will partially replace the necessity to print thousands of Gozo Walks booklets.	
	Recipients of royalty income derived by an individual in one's capacity as an author from qualifying literary works may opt to tax the full gross amount of such royalty income at a reduced rate of 7.5% (decreased from 15%).	An increase of publishers publishing titles in Maltese.	
	Following the submission of the plans for the construction of a new circuit in Hal Far, it will be ensured that the new circuit is completed. The investment by the National Development and Social Fund (NDSF) for the construction of a National Motorsport Centre in Hal Far will see an upgrade of the existing drag racing and karting tracks. This circuit will raise the level of motorsports and attract new championships to our country.	The construction of a new circuit in Hal Far will attract new championships and raise the level of motorsports in the country. The complex will host national and international events, attract motorsport enthusiasts, tourists, and provide a hub for the local racing community, with diverse uses including road safety, virtual racing, and events for special needs.	
	With an investment of €9 million, the Marsa Sports Complex will be turned into a sports hub of international standards. Investment will also continue in turning the Marsa athletics track into a state-of-the-art track.	This investment will lead to a top-level athletics track so that Maltese athletes can train and practice their favourite sport in a professional manner. Through the investment, the Marsa Sports Complex will be turning into an international level sports hub with several facilities for different sports disciplines. Children will also have a facility which helps them practice their sport on a professional level, giving them a future as athletes and possibilities to achieve results at international level.	
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	Malta Enterprise will be developing guidelines for companies to obtain the ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) credentials. This process will be extended in the form of technical support for small and medium-sized enterprises through collaboration with European countries that, like us, want to encourage their businesses to make this leap in quality.	Improving SMEs awareness and understanding of ESG in order to be able to assess their environmental performance, decarbonisation investment opportunities and align with a growing climate-conscious customer base.	
	The introduction of new gate fees from 1st January 2023 to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in the landfill and encourage increased waste separation.	This initiative will mainly impact businesses with the aim of increasing source waste separation. This will lead to more efficient waste management in line with the principles of circular economy.	
	A Skip Management Facility will be built.	Such project will extend the waste management infrastructure whilst increasing waste management efficiency and reducing landfill dependency. This is inline with the principles of circular economy. The Skip Management Facility will reduce around 47,000 tonnes of bulky waste from the landfill, which will instead begin to be separated and processed in order to meet the recycling targets. This facility will be accepting bulky waste from open-topped skips. By separating the bulky waste into different waste streams, this facility will be recovering valuable materials, effectively reducing waste directed to the landfill.	
SDG 13: Climate Action	Work will continue on the Freeport shore-to-ship project.	The project's main aim is to reduce noise and air pollution by shutting off the vessel's engines when at berth. This will drastically reduce the impact on the environment and negative health to the surrounding communities. Further studies are in progress to quantify the amount of vessels fitted with a shore to ship connection and those in the process of adaptation to the system. This will lead to quantify the reduction of emissions. An increase in the amount of adapted vessels is foreseen in due course to adapt to the EU regulations.	
	The process of changing the lighting in several arterial roads around Gozo will be initiated, with the aim to reduce light pollution.	Replacement of Traditional Street Lighting to LED illuminaries of at least 7 arterial roads constituting part of the TEN-T road network of Gozo.	
	Several initiatives in the Gozo Civil Abattoir will be undertaken to reduce emissions. 1. The old chimney will be dismantled 2. The existing chillers will be replaced by newer, more efficient ones 3. The installation of a new system to monitor electricity consumption and emissions	The conversion and modernisation of the Civil Abattoir into a more energy efficient facility that could be upclaved to provide more diverse service portfolio.	
	The implementation phase in relation to the Offshore Renewable Energy will be launched by inviting the private sector to participate with investment in this field. The measure shall lead to the development of a policy framework for offshore wind energy as well as a regulatory framework and support framework to incentivize and facilitate the development of offshore wind energy by the private sector.	This should lead to an increase in clean and sustainable energy and a reduction in carbon emissions attributable to the local power sector.	

	<p>Through The Grand Harbour Clean Air Project, the Government is also committed to provide shore supply in the Grand Harbour to enable berthed vessels to switch off their gas, or heavy-fuel-oil, fired engines and plug-in to shoreside electricity to power their onboard systems. Work on the first phase on the shore-to-ship project in the Grand Harbour which covers 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 of €25,771,035.</p>	<p>This project will be reducing drastically emissions at source from vessels berthed in the harbour. By reducing air pollution in the region, this project will contribute towards EU and national climate change objectives in line with the Paris Agreement, which obliges ports to reduce the carbon footprint of their land-based activities as well as the decarbonisation of shipping activities.</p> <p>Cruise liners will plug in to the onshore power supply whilst at berth rather than using their auxiliary engines. By switching off their auxiliary engines, cruise liners visiting Valletta will emit 93% less nitrogen dioxide, 92.6% less particulate matter and 99.6% less sulphur dioxide. These pollutants are among the principal causes of respiratory illnesses and other health issues. The first phase of the Grand Harbour Clean Air Project will also cut 39.6% of the cruise liners' carbon dioxide emissions, which contribute to climate change.</p> <p>Preliminary studies indicate that through this project, within 20 years Malta will save up to €375 million in costs linked to the measurable consequences of air pollution, such as impacts on health, the natural environment, infrastructure and agriculture. It will also reduce the impact of noise and engine vibrations in the Grand Harbour area, thereby improving the surrounding environment and quality of life of all persons living and working within the region of the Grand Harbour. By reducing air pollution in the region, this project will contribute towards EU and national climate change objectives in line with the Paris Agreement, which obliges ports to reduce the carbon footprint of their land-based activities as well as the decarbonisation of shipping activities.</p>	
SDG 14: Life Below Water	Investing in our 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.	Increase efficiency and effectiveness of the fisheries and aquaculture centre	
	Strengthening biodiversity by investing resources for the management of Natura 2000 zones as well as in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).	This measure will lead to better restoration, conservation, monitoring and management of protected sites.	
SDG 15: Life on Land	Continue working on the extension and the embellishment of the Ta' Qali National Park.	These measures will help in mitigating heat in urban areas, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality, rainwater control, increasing urban biodiversity and foster social cohesion and promote healthy lifestyles.	
	The rehabilitation of several valleys will continue.	This measure aims to promote investment in the restoration and regeneration of various valleys within different catchment areas around Malta. This will provide better rainwater control and better water harvesting together with enhancement to the ecosystem through increase in biodiversity.	
	The launch of an investment programme in green urban areas both with national funds and European Union funds.	These green urban projects are intended for the enjoyment of all residents within the Maltese islands including tourists. Such projects will improve the quality of life of the residents.	
	In accordance with the commitments taken under the Bern Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species, a national plan of action will be designed to combat the illegal killing, trapping and poaching of wild birds.	The eventual implementation of this action plan will lead towards a reduction in the cases being reported in the Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (IKB).	
	Financial assistance through the Conservation of Wild Birds Funding Scheme for Voluntary Organisations in order to carry out scientific studies monitoring the turtle dove migratory route.	This initiative will improve scientific knowledge on migratory routes of the turtle dove.	
SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Spaces from where voluntary organisations can operate will be extended by adding a one-stop-shop service. Thanks to this service, the same organisations will find information, services and support in one place in order to improve the assistance they are given while supporting their work in our communities.	Through this initiative, the sector will be benefitting from a service, through which they're guided and assisted so that both them and their beneficiaries are safeguarded and empowered. Currently there are 1,800 organisations enrolled with the OCVO, which vary from voluntary organisations, to Not For Profit service providers, sport and cultural clubs, civil society organisations and associations, which operate at a local and community level.	
	The Government will reinforce the remedies available to consumers by raising the maximum claim value ceiling that can be presented before the Consumer Claims Tribunal which at present is €5,000.	The increase of the claim value ceiling will strengthen and expand the reach and effectiveness of the consumer claims tribunal, thus becoming a possible channel for the resolution of disputes for a greater number of consumers.	
	Finalisation of the new long-term Local Government National Strategy that will serve as a road map for all regional and local councils (i.e. the internal stakeholders).	This strategy will be providing easy access to meaningful, timely and accurate information about local government as well as strengthening local democracy through increased community engagement. Through the strategy, the local governments will be more efficient, while embracing contemporary models for governance and public sector management. Additionally, the local government will be empowered to deliver for communities as autonomous bodies with powers and responsibilities specified in legislation.	
	A further €8 million will be voted in order to continue making the payments due to the former members of the Forces (Korpi), apprentices and student workers who then joined the public sector.	The number of persons who will benefit from this measure will be approximately 3,100.	
	Cases of former members of the Forces (Korpi) who then joined the public sector, ex-workers of the Gas Board, former MEB apprentices and former workers of Telemalta will be looked into.	The number of persons who will benefit from this measure will be approximately 1,700.	
	Private sector workers working under a Government contract will be paid the full Cost of Living Adjustment as the Government will be issuing the difference from the established rates.	This measure will effect all workers of contractors working under Government contracts as the weekly wage of such employees will increase and thus will have more disposable income.	

<p>Good governance has been and will remain a priority to ensure sustainability. For this purpose, Malta will ensure that entities such as the FIAU, the Malta Business Registry, the MFSA, the Police, the Commissioner for Revenue, the Asset Recovery Bureau and others are given all the support necessary to continue to do their work effectively. In this way, the Government continues to ensure that the entities licensed in Malta are not used for money laundering and terrorist financing.</p> <p>The measures to be taken reflect the vulnerabilities that were found from the National Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Terrorism Financing/Targeted Financial Sanctions (AML/CFT/TFS) Strategy for 2021-2023 and the Update of the National Risk Assessment (NRA) in this field. The measures include addressing the continuous need for enhancing the skills of the human resources and ensuring at the same time ensuring job retention, that is, keeping productive and talented workers and reducing turnover by fostering a positive work atmosphere. To this end, the measures being proposed for the immediate short term include: 1. training to the OCfR, FIAU, ARB, Office of the AG in order to enhance the results achieved so far; 2. training needs on the gaps identified in the NRA in fields that require more focus; 3. training on the new emerging threats in order to ensure a robust and sustainable AML/CFT framework. The impact of the above measures, is expected to be positive and these measures in addition to the measures aimed at ensuring job retention, should ensure that Malta sustains the momentum achieved so far in order to no longer be under increased monitoring by the Financial Action Task Force.</p>	<p>The objective of this measure is to maintain sustainability in the effective anti-money laundering and countering of funding of terrorism and targeted financial sanctions evading (AML/CFT/TFS) framework. This measure will help ensuring that there is sustainability in the effectiveness of results achieved through the robust AML/CFT framework since this sustainability is only achieved if the entities are adequately resourced and have the necessary know-how in order to maintain the momentum achieved by Malta in order to no longer be categorised as a country under increased monitoring by the FATF.</p>	
<p>Development of a central due diligence repository by the Malta Business Registry.</p>	<p>Relevant Government entities would benefit as due diligence documents are going to be received online and the applicant will not have to go to several entities with the same set of due diligence documents. Subject persons will also benefit from this as the process will be more efficient.</p>	
<p>The services offered to businesses by the Malta Business Registry will be modernised with new technology with the objective of increasing efficiency, transparency and accountability.</p>	<p>Individuals who would like to incorporate companies and send the relevant notifications during the existence of the company can do so online and therefore this is facilitating both company incorporation and its upkeep.</p>	
<p>In 2023 every town and village in Malta will be covered by community policing services.</p>	<p>A significant reduction in criminal offences in particular violence-related crimes, which will lead to the reduction of accidents, all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.</p>	
<p>The existing buildings of the Armed Forces of Malta are undergoing a transformation with the use of a Virtual Small Arms Training Simulator with an investment of €1.3 million and a new building and ancillary facilities that will amount to an investment of around €12 million.</p>	<p>The specialised forces within the Armed Forces of Malta will be those positively impacted because of the benefits and virtual reality offered by the simulator and the ancillary facility alike, which would ultimately serve as an upgrade in the skills of the special forces, alongside other provisions, to the benefit of the general public as well, due to the investment in resources made by AFM.</p>	
<p>Investment in purchasing equipment and vehicles for the Police, Armed Forces and Civil Protection.</p>	<p>The purchase of new equipment and vehicles will continue to strengthen Malta's security as well as assist officers in performing their duties efficiently, fight crime and protect all citizens.</p>	
<p>The Electronic Monitoring Bill will be implemented after approval by Parliament.</p>	<p>This system shall serve in suspending the incarceration of individuals from the correctional facilities, thus facilitating their reintegration into society, whilst providing reassurance to the community and victims of crime.</p>	
<p>Work will continue on the renovation of the existing buildings of the Corradino Corrective Facility as well as the rehabilitation centre.</p>	<p>Around 800 Correctional facility officials and residents will be benefiting from this while enhancing security around the perimeter of the prison building.</p>	
<p>The Victim Support Agency shall operate a national 24-hour helpline.</p>	<p>The helpline will continue strengthening the holistic service offered to victims of many forms of crime.</p>	
<p>There will be the continuation of discussions on a National level for the completion and presentation of the University Act. This law will be linked to the Education Act, which came into force toward the end of last year and complements the MCAST Act.</p>	<p>The proposed University of Malta Act will have a significant impact on the higher education system in Malta by creating a stronger, more transparent, and more accountable university system that provides equal access to all who qualify and can benefit from higher education. It advocates good governance principles such as autonomy, academic freedom, high-quality teaching, scholarship and research, student participation, and the protection of the collective student interest.</p>	
<p>Discussions on a new sectoral agreement for educators commenced in January.</p>	<p>This measure will impact over 8,000 educators within state schools and improve attractiveness towards the professions and job retention.</p>	
<p>ITS is working on an operational restructuring process whereby it will be implementing its strategic plan.</p>	<p>The restructuring programme will see the gradual increase of staff through external calls as well as considerable number of opportunities for progression for internal staff who aims at continuously develop their skills in the area of administration. This exercise will also allow for developing new sections and departments which will ensure the sustainability of the operations both from an educational point of view but also from a financial point of view.</p>	
<p>The digitalisation of Ship Register with an investment of around €6 million as part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)</p>	<p>The digitalisation of the Malta Ship Register shall contribute towards the promotion and higher take-up of eGovernment services by making the Ship Register fully digital, thus making ship registration services more accessible, simple and transparent for citizens to make use of. The project shall also contribute towards making Government services accessible through mobile devices, allowing the re-use of public sector information, extending government transparency, as well as stimulating greater collaboration between international partners, Government, local enterprises and citizens. Through the digitalisation of the Ship Register, citizens and organisations will be able to transact securely with Government for any ship registration-related services through the introduction of online forms, e-payments and e-invoicing. The Ship Register Digital platform will adhere to Government policy for e-services including 'once-only-principle', 'one login' and 'service-personalisation'. Through the introduction of Maritime Analytics, the decision making process shall be supported and facilitated through the easier identification of gaps and opportunities.</p>	
<p>Continuation of the massive investment in digitalisation from the Recovery and</p>	<p>The continuation of the investment to digitise the justice system aims at achieving a more efficient</p>	

	Resilience Plan (RRP). In the public sector, this includes, among others, an investment of over €10 million in the justice sector. The primary stakeholders are the Law Courts, Malta Police Force, State Advocate, Attorney General, Legal Aid and Asset Recovery Bureau. In preparation for this investment outlay, legal acts on the digitalisation of the law courts have entered into force in order to introduce the possibility for civil proceedings to be held via live video conferencing facilities and for criminal judicial acts to be filed electronically.	administration of justice. The investment aims to implement a number of secure digital solutions and tools to support justice sector users through collaboration and integration, increased accessibility to justice and strengthened efficiency, and this in line with the Digital Justice Strategy.	
	Establishing 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. Work on said reform is well underway and the already drafted Bill will be presented to Cabinet in the next few weeks. Said reform has been the subject of a study carried out with the Division for Legal Cooperation of the Council of Europe, within the framework of a project funded by the Structural Reform Support Services (SRSS) entitled "Supporting the Efficiency of Justice in Malta" carried out in 2019.	The reform of the compilation of evidence procedure in the Maltese criminal justice system - a procedure inherited from the common law legal system - is mainly intended to improve the quality and efficiency of the system as exemplified by a reduction in case backlog, reduce the cost of criminal proceedings, ensure a better use of the time of the judiciary, ensure that less time is spent by the accused in pre-trial detention whilst also ensuring less threatening procedures for witnesses and victims who might need to be called upon to testify in multiple proceedings or on multiple occasions.	
	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 with the aim of increasing the number of hearings and, at the same time, reducing the duration of cases. Additionally a new Building very close to the main Law Court Building has been acquired and plans to convert into new Chambers and offices are underway.	The holistic approach of this measure will give rise to more members of the judiciary being able to hold sittings more freely thus leading to an increase in the number of hearings, reduce the backlog of cases and provide more efficient and timely justice system.	
	Carrying out a complete review of the procedure used before the Family Court, both from the civil and the criminal aspects. The Family Court deals with cases that are sensitive both on a personal level and on a social level, and as such it is intended to improve the level of service quality for both professionals who work in this the field as well as for everyone who uses these courts. In this regard a number of discussions will be held with professionals working in the field in order to design a reform that will address aspects such as mediation, the delay of cases, legal reforms, the use of technological information, and more human resources and this with a view of ensuring a more effective reform and efficiency in terms of processes, legislation, judicial time management solutions and statistics. The reform shall also address other key issues such as children, victims, and the effect of justice on vulnerable persons.	The aim of this measure is to achieve more effective and efficient justice system.	
	Implementing a reform in the field of magisterial inquiries with the creation of a new section that specialises in inquiries. The reform in the Magisterial Inquires entails the setting up of a new entity solely responsible for the Magisterial Inquires, with their own experts. It also entails the involvement in international cooperation in Criminal subjects, that necessitates training and ad-hoc resources to ensure that the utmost efficiency is yielded from this unit.	Through the creation of this additional section the appointed Magistrates will be dedicated solely to inquirees in order to facilitate and make the process of these inquiries more efficient and effective. Additionally, the Magistrates and their teams currently dealing with these Inquires can divert their resources to the new and pending cases at Law Courts. This measure will have a positive impact on the Magisterial Inquiries as well as, on the load of pending Court cases whilst enhancing efficiency in service.	
	Work is currently underway on the construction project of a specialised building that will be equipped with the latest technology to house an asset-tracking laboratory and an adequate space for the preservation of confiscated assets. This is a very important area that we will continue to strengthen in the years to come.	This measure will see the laying of the foundations of the first ever Asset Recovery facility in Malta aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity in dealing with proceeds of crime. This development permits ARB to become fully operational and developed into an efficient tool for the tracing and management of assets, supported by sufficient resources and training for the authorities involved and in line with Moneyval's recommendations.	
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	The fight against climate change is a global one. Therefore, Malta will be promoting investment in third countries in order to help such countries give their contribution and adapt to climate change. This will be done by prioritising these projects in the Overseas Development Assistance and by doing the holistic reporting on this aid. The initiatives include a number of scholarships at Masters level and short courses in climate studies and a capacity-building water project to benefit a number of students/officials from the courses delivered by the University of Malta.	Malta's total annual budget for the furtherance of its development and humanitarian assistance policies totals EUR 2.1M, of which at least 9.5% (EUR 200K) has been earmarked for climate change initiatives in ODA eligible third countries; namely countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and small-island developing states (SIDS) in the Caribbean.	