

Annex 1: Conceptual Framework of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme

The Conceptual Framework is an integral part of the Framework Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Republic of Malta concerning the implementation of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme. The Conceptual Framework defines overall objectives, key principles, strategies, thematic focus as well as indicative financial allocations.

1. Overall Objective

The objective of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme is to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities within Malta and between Malta and the more advanced countries of the enlarged European Union (EU).

The Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme shall include Project(s) which support(s) a sustainable, economically and socially balanced development.

Towards the end of the implementation period of the Swiss Contribution, both Parties may jointly decide on a global evaluation of the results achieved by the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme.

2. Key Principles

The Swiss-Maltese cooperation is guided by the following principles:

Transparency. Transparency and openness are key to all cooperation activities and are binding at all levels. Special emphasis shall be given to transparency in contract awarding and financial management.

Social inclusion. Cooperation activities aim at including socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and groups in the opportunities and benefits of development.

Equal opportunities and rights. Cooperation activities aim at increasing women's and men's opportunities to exercise their rights equally through a gender-based approach.

Environmental sustainability. Cooperation activities aim at incorporating requirements of environmental sustainability.

Commitment by all stakeholders. All institutions and decision-makers involved in the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme are committed to an efficient and effective implementation of the agreed Projects.

Subsidiarity and decentralisation. Cooperation activities aim at including considerations of subsidiarity and decentralisation primarily.

3. Strategies

3.1 Main Strategic Considerations

The Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme is part of a comprehensive national development planning that includes the structural and cohesion programmes of the EU as well as the programmes of the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms. The Swiss Contribution shall be complementary to these programmes and mainly focus on Projects that are not or only partially covered by other financial sources.

Main strategic considerations include:

a. Focusing. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Swiss Federal Council and the Council of the European Union defines four funding guidelines for the Contribution:

- Security, stability and support for reforms;
- Environment and infrastructure;
- Promotion of the private sector; and
- Human and social development.

These funding guidelines and the related focus areas provide a broad base for cooperation. Efficiency and effectiveness considerations as well as concern for the optimal allocation and use of available resources are of paramount importance. Within this framework, the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme shall be concentrated on a maximum of two focus areas.

b. Individual project approach. An individual project approach shall be applied in a focus area in which stand-alone projects shall be implemented. To assure efficiency and effectiveness, the contribution for each project under the individual project approach shall represent in general a minimum amount of CHF 1 million. Higher minimal financial volumes may be agreed upon (see Chapter 4 of this Annex).

c. Partners and beneficiaries. The Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme may include partners and beneficiaries from the public and/or private sectors, non-governmental organisations and other civil society organisations.

d. Partnerships. Partnerships between Swiss and Maltese partners are an enriching element of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme. Cooperation and partnerships are strongly encouraged, especially in focus areas in which Switzerland may contribute particular experience, know-how and technologies.

e. Visibility. Visibility of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme for Maltese and Swiss citizens is an important aspect that may be taken into account when selecting and implementing Projects. Both Parties undertake to inform proactively on their cooperation.

3.2 Implementation Strategies

a. Identifying Projects. Project identification significantly impacts the quality of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme. Malta is responsible for the identification of

Projects to be financed by the Contribution. Switzerland can offer Malta Project proposals.

b. Setting Project criteria. Project identification shall be based on a clear set of criteria. General identification criteria shall include:

- Responsiveness to the objectives of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme;
- Adherence to the principles of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme described in chapter 2 of this Annex;
- Responsiveness to the strategic considerations outlined in chapter 3.1 of this Annex;
- Anchoring in the national development planning and, if possible, the National Strategic Reference Framework and the respective Operational Programme(s);
- Innovation and/or the potential to offer new solutions that can be applied subsequently on a larger scale (pilot Projects);
- Capacity of implementation partner;
- Leverage potential (mobilisation of additional resources);
- Feasibility in the given time-span; and
- Sustainability of results.

Specific identification criteria may be formulated prior to starting the implementation of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme.

c. Supporting Project planning. Project preparation and detailed Project planning are of paramount importance for efficiency and effectiveness in Project implementation. Preparation support may be requested by Malta or recommended by Switzerland as an integral part of Project financing.

d. Enhancing implementation capacities. Successful Project implementation depends on the capacities of the implementing and monitoring organisations. If need be, capacity enhancement may be requested by Malta or recommended by Switzerland and may be financed by the Contribution as an integral part of Project financing.

4. Thematic Focus and Indicative Financial Allocations

The following thematic focus and indicative financial allocations shall apply to the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme:

1. Human and Social Development			
N°	Focus area	Approach, objectives and eligible projects	Indicative financial allocation
1	Health (modernisation of hospitals, reform of health insurance systems and preventive measures)	<p><u>Individual project approach with the following objective:</u></p> <p>To ensure high-quality standards in the provision of health-care facilities.</p> <p>Types of eligible projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modernisation of health facilities and strengthening and/or enhancing public health care - Prevention of health risks and health education campaigns 	Up to 2.794 million CHF

2. Special Allocations		
Item	Content	Indicative financial allocation
Swiss Programme Management	Swiss administration of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme.	Up to 0.15 million CHF
Maltese Technical Assistance	Maltese administration of the Swiss-Maltese Cooperation Programme including preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation.	Up to 0.05 million CHF

Overview on the Indicative Allocations	
Funding guidelines	Indicative financial allocation (million CHF)
1. Human and Social Development	2.794
2. Special Allocations	0.2
Total indicative allocations	2.994