

Digital Decade Strategic Roadmap 2023 – 2030

Malta

2026 Revision

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Section 1: Executive Summary

Malta’s Digital Decade Roadmap has undergone a substantial update to ensure the country remains at the forefront of digital transformation and fully aligned with the EU’s 2030 digital objectives. This revision is driven by the need to address new EU recommendations, respond to extensive stakeholder feedback, and keep pace with rapid technological and policy changes. The update also reflects the importance of using the latest data and performance indicators to guide national priorities and investments.

The roadmap now includes nearly **90** targeted measures, with **24** new initiatives introduced since the last version. These additions are designed to accelerate progress across all four pillars of the EU Digital Decade: **digital skills, business digitalisation, digital public services, and secure, sustainable digital infrastructure**. The new measures are a direct response to gaps identified in previous assessments, as well as to the evolving needs of Malta’s economy and society.

Among the most significant new initiatives is the “**AI for Everyone**” programme, which will provide free national AI training and practical sessions for all segments of the population, including students, workers, parents, and the elderly. Included in this initiative is a free subscription to an AI service of choice once the individual completes the training. This is complemented by financial assistance for families with students in Years 10 and 11, ensuring equitable access to digital devices and online learning resources. The expansion of digital skills bootcamps and targeted programmes for marginalised groups, the elderly, and persons with disabilities further demonstrates Malta’s commitment to digital inclusion.

For businesses, the roadmap introduces enhanced SME and microbusiness digitalisation schemes, offering grants and support for the adoption of cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity solutions. New support structures for start-ups and scale-ups, such as the Venture Capital Fund and

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the Basecamp Incubator, are intended to foster innovation and help Malta attract and retain high-growth digital enterprises.

The public sector will benefit from the redevelopment of the servizz.gov Citizen Portal, which aims to deliver a more personalised and user-centric digital experience for citizens. The creation of a Central Data Repository will streamline Know Your Client (KYC) processes and improve the efficiency of business-government interactions. Further digitalisation of health records and electronic identification, including the rollout of a national digital wallet, will enhance the accessibility and security of public services.

Malta is also investing in emerging technologies and digital ecosystems. The launch of the AI Factory Antenna and support for eSports and game development are positioning the country as a Mediterranean hub for digital innovation. Investments in quantum computing, high-performance computing, and advanced cybersecurity infrastructure are designed to future-proof Malta's digital landscape and support the needs of both the public and private sectors.

Overall, the 2026 revision of the roadmap is more ambitious, measurable, and responsive than ever before. It is the result of broad consultation, evidence-based planning, and a clear commitment to continuous improvement. By introducing new initiatives and updating existing ones, Malta is ensuring that its digital transformation remains inclusive, sustainable, and fully aligned with both national and EU priorities. The roadmap's dynamic approach will help Malta maintain its status as a digital frontrunner and deliver tangible benefits to citizens, businesses, and the wider economy.

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Section 2: Analysis of the State of Play of the Digital Transformation in Malta

Introduction

Malta has emerged as a beacon of digital excellence within the European Union, exemplifying how strategic vision, robust policy frameworks, and targeted investment can drive a nation's digital transformation to the highest heights of achievement. The country's digital journey is underpinned by a holistic approach that integrates technological innovation, human capital development, and a steadfast commitment to digital sovereignty and resilience. Malta's digital transformation is not merely a policy objective; it is a national ethos, woven into the fabric of government, business, and society.

The nation's path is guided by the [Malta Digitali 2022-2027](#) strategy, which articulates a comprehensive vision for a digitally empowered society and economy. This vision is operationalised through a suite of forward-thinking initiatives, including the National [eSkills Strategy 2022-2025](#), the [National Cybersecurity Strategy 2023-2026](#), and the [AI Strategy: Malta – The Ultimate AI Launchpad](#). Malta's alignment with the European Union's Digital Decade targets is evident in its outstanding performance across all cardinal pillars: digital skills, digital infrastructure and connectivity, digitalisation of businesses, and digitalisation of public services.

Malta's leadership is further reinforced by its active participation in pan-European projects such as the Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies, the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, and the MEDUSA submarine cable initiative. These collaborations not only enhance Malta's digital capabilities but also position the country as a strategic hub for digital innovation in the Mediterranean and beyond.

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2.1 Digital Skills

Malta's achievements in digital skills development are the result of a sustained, multi-layered strategy that places human capital at the centre of the digital agenda. The [Digital Education Strategy 2025-2030](#) has been instrumental in fostering a culture of digital literacy, upskilling, and lifelong learning. As of 2024, 63% of Maltese citizens aged 16–74 possess at least basic digital skills, a figure that surpasses the EU average and reflects the nation's commitment to inclusivity and empowerment.

The gender balance in digital skills is particularly noteworthy, with women slightly outpacing men – a testament to the effectiveness of initiatives such as the [Women4IT](#) programme and the [Digital Connect Scheme](#), which provides devices and connectivity to all segments of society. Malta's educational ecosystem is further enriched by the [One Tablet Per Child \(OTPC\)](#) project, the One Device Per Child (ODPC) project, and the integration of digital learning into national curricula at every level.

The prominence of ICT specialists within the workforce is another area of distinction. Malta's share of ICT professionals has reached 5.2% of total employment, exceeding the EU average and reflecting the nation's dynamic digital economy. The [Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship](#) and the [Get Qualified Scheme](#) are among the flagship initiatives that support advanced training and specialisation in ICT fields. The [Digital Skills and Jobs Platform](#) serves as a national hub for digital training, best practices, and funding opportunities, ensuring that Malta remains at the forefront of digital talent cultivation.

2.2 Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity

Malta's digital infrastructure is a model of technological advancement and resilience. The country achieved universal Very High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage as early as 2019 and reached 100% basic 5G coverage by 2022, setting a benchmark for connectivity excellence. The rapid expansion of fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) has propelled coverage to 93% in 2024, placing Malta well ahead of the EU average and ensuring that high-speed internet is accessible to virtually all households and businesses.

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The adoption of 5G technology is equally impressive, with Malta achieving full national coverage and a rapidly growing presence in the 3.4–3.8 GHz band. Fixed broadband subscriptions with speeds of at least 100 Mbps now account for nearly 80% of all subscriptions, underscoring the nation’s commitment to high-performance digital services. Malta’s strategic investments in submarine cables, most notably the MEDUSA project, have further enhanced the country’s digital sovereignty and international connectivity. The MEDUSA initiative positions Malta as a Mediterranean digital gateway and a key player in regional digital infrastructure.

The country’s leadership in digital infrastructure is further demonstrated by its participation in the IPCEI on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies and the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking. These projects enable Malta to contribute to and benefit from cutting-edge developments in semiconductors, high-performance computing, and quantum technologies.

2.3 Digitalisation of Businesses

Malta’s business sector is rich in digital innovation and competitiveness. The country’s Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), which constitute 96.5% of enterprises with more than 10 employees, are at the forefront of digital transformation. In 2024, an outstanding 81.3% of SMEs achieved at least a basic level of digital intensity, far surpassing the EU average and positioning Malta as a leader in SME digitalisation.

The uptake of advanced technologies is equally remarkable: 17.3% of enterprises have adopted artificial intelligence, 58.2% utilise cloud computing, and 35.6% employ data analytics. These achievements are the result of robust policy support, including the [SME Digitalisation Scheme](#), the [Digital Intensification Grant Scheme](#), and the [Technology Sandbox](#). The [DiHubMT European Digital Innovation Hub](#) provides comprehensive support for innovation, access to finance, and the scaling of high-potential enterprises.

Malta’s start-up ecosystem is dynamic and resilient, with four unicorns now established in the country – a testament to the effectiveness of government-backed programmes such as the [Start-Up Finance Scheme](#) – which provides up to EUR 1.5 million in repayable advances for small, innovative enterprises, the

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[Venture Capital Fund](#), and the [National Malta Start-up Framework](#). The [Business Start Scheme](#), the [Seed Investment Scheme](#), and the [Smart Specialisation Strategy 2022–2027](#) further reinforce Malta’s commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, research, and development.

The nation’s leadership in business digitalisation is also reflected in its hosting of the [EU Startups Summit](#) and its active participation in the European Digital Innovation Hubs network. Malta’s business environment is characterised by agility, adaptability, and a forward-looking mindset, making it a model for digital transformation in the region.

2.4 Digitalisation of Public Services

Malta is internationally recognised for its excellence in digital public service provision, consistently achieving top scores in the accessibility, quality, and user-centricity of its online services. [In 2024, Malta attained a score of 99.7/100 for citizens and a perfect 100/100 for businesses](#), reflecting the comprehensive digitalisation of key public services and the nation’s unwavering commitment to digital inclusion.

The eHealth sector exemplifies Malta’s leadership, with 93.7% of individuals now able to access their electronic health records online. The implementation of a robust eID scheme under the eIDAS Regulation further enhances secure and seamless access to digital services, reinforcing Malta’s reputation as a pioneer in digital identity and authentication.

The government’s focus on innovation, transparency, and security is evident in its ongoing investments to improve interoperability, data governance, and cybersecurity. The continued development of the myHealth portal ensures seamless and equitable access to health data for all citizens.

Malta’s digital public services shall be further enhanced by projects such as the redevelopment of the [servizz.gov Citizen Portal](#) and the implementation of a Central Data Repository. These initiatives exemplify Malta’s holistic approach to public service digitalisation, which integrates emerging technologies and prioritises user experience.

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To further strengthen the usability and security of digital public services, Malta is making significant investments in advanced digital technologies. This commitment is demonstrated by the [Malta's Public Administration Data Strategy](#), which aims to drive innovation, enhance data-driven decision-making, and ensure the highest standards of security and efficiency across all public sector digital initiatives.

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Section 3: National Trajectories and Target Values Contributing to the EU's Digital Targets

The projection of Malta's Digital Decade trajectories for each Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is underpinned by a rigorous and methodical approach, ensuring that national targets are both ambitious and evidence-based. This methodology begins with a precise definition of each KPI, followed by the careful selection and analysis of the most recent and reliable data points available. The 2030 target values are established in accordance with both national priorities and the overarching objectives of the European Union's Digital Decade Policy Programme.

To construct robust baseline trajectories, the process takes into account the availability, length, and consistency of historical time-series data for each KPI. Where comprehensive datasets exist, statistical modelling and trend analysis are employed to project future progress with a high degree of confidence. In instances where data limitations arise – such as sparse or inconsistent time-series—trajectories are aligned with the scope and duration of specific national measures, ensuring that the justification for each 2030 target remains transparent and credible.

This approach not only facilitates the accurate monitoring of Malta's progress towards its digital ambitions, but also enables the timely identification of areas requiring further policy intervention or investment. By integrating quantitative analysis with strategic foresight, Malta's national trajectories are designed to be both realistic and aspirational, supporting the country's continued leadership in digital transformation within the European Union.

Basic Digital Skills

Target: A digitally skilled population, with the aim of achieving gender balance, where at least 80% of those aged 16-74 have at least basic digital skills.

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|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| KPI: (1) At least basic digital skills, measured as the percentage of individuals aged between 16 and 74 years old disaggregated by sex with “basic” or “above basic” digital skills in each of the following five dimensions: information, communication, problem solving, digital content creation and safety skills. It is measured based on the activities that individuals carried out during the previous three months; and gender convergence, measured as the percentage of women and men among those individuals with “basic” or “above basic” digital skills. | | | | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat, European Union Survey on ICT Usage in Households and by Individuals. | | | | | | | | |
| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
| % (baseline trajectory) | 62.89 | 64.26 | 65.62 | 66.99 | 68.35 | 69.72 | 71.08 | 72.45 |
| % (Digital Decade trajectory) | 62.75 | 64.62 | 66.05 | 67.50 | 68.99 | 70.57 | 72.36 | 75.00 |
| The baseline trajectory is based on the linear functional form by extrapolating historical series. The Digital Decade trajectory illustrates the ideal path towards the achievement of the 2030 target. | | | | | | | | |

ICT Specialists (and gender gap in ICT)

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| Target: Highly skilled digital professionals, with the aim of achieving gender balance, where at least 20 million ICT specialists are employed within the Union, while promoting the access of women to this field and increasing the number of ICT graduates. |
| KPI: (2) ICT specialists, measured as the number of individuals aged 15-74 who are employed as ICT specialists; and gender convergence, measured as the percentage of women and men among those individuals employed as ICT specialists. In accordance with the ISCO-08 code classification, ICT specialists are workers who have the ability to develop, operate and maintain ICT systems, and for whom ICT constitutes the main part of their job, including but not limited to ICT service managers, ICT professionals, ICT technicians, ICT installers and servicers. |

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| Source: Eurostat - Labour Force Survey. | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Year | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
| % of the total workforce (baseline trajectory) | 5.20 | 5.41 | 5.56 | 5.72 | 5.88 | 6.04 | 6.20 |
| % of the total workforce (Digital Decade trajectory) | 5.50 | 5.71 | 5.92 | 6.17 | 6.48 | 6.94 | 8.00 |
| % men | 85.30 | | | | | | |
| % women | 14.70 | | | | | | |
| The baseline trajectory is based on the linear functional form by extrapolating historical series. The Digital Decade trajectory illustrates the ideal path towards the achievement of the 2030 target. | | | | | | | |

Connectivity

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| Target: Secure, resilient, performant, and sustainable digital infrastructures, where: all end users at a fixed location are covered by a gigabit network up to the network termination point, and all populated areas are covered by next-generation wireless highspeed networks with performance at least equivalent to that of 5G, in accordance with the principle of technology neutrality. |
| KPIs: (3) Gigabit connectivity, measured as the percentage of households covered by fixed Very High-Capacity Networks (VHCN). The technologies considered are those currently able to deliver gigabit connectivity, namely Fibre to the Premises and Cable DOCSIS 3.1. The evolution of the Fibre to the Premises coverage will also be monitored separately and taken into consideration when interpreting VHCN coverage data. (4) 5G coverage, measured as the percentage of populated areas covered by at least one 5G network regardless of the spectrum band used. |
| Source: Broadband coverage in Europe studies for the European Commission by Omdia and Point Topic. |

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Malta is already covered by electronic communications networks capable and currently commercially offering, on a nationwide level, broadband services with speeds of 1Gbps. A service offering of 2Gbps is also being offered in certain areas of the country. Nationwide 5G coverage was achieved in 2022. 17%¹ of fixed broadband subscriptions are on a speed of 1GB or higher.

Semiconductors

Target: Secure, resilient, performant and sustainable digital infrastructures where the production, in accordance with Union law on environmental sustainability, of cutting-edge semiconductors in the Union is at least 20% of world production in value.

KPIs:

(5) Semiconductors, measured as value generated, in terms of revenues, by semiconductor activities in the Union, in all stages of the value chain, with respect to the global market value. For the first year, reporting will be done on the basis of those activities in Europe.

Source: Study in progress by IDC (International Data Corporation).

Currently, the digital target for “Semiconductors” is being monitored at the EU level; member states do not need to establish a trajectory.

Edge nodes

Target: Secure, resilient, performant and sustainable digital infrastructures where at least 10 000 climate-neutral highly secure edge nodes are deployed in the Union, distributed in a way that guarantees access to data services with low latency (i.e., a few milliseconds) wherever businesses are located.

KPIs:

(6) Edge nodes, measured as the number of compute nodes providing latencies below 20 milliseconds, such as an individual server or other set of connected computing resources, operated as part of an edge computing infrastructure, typically residing within an edge data centre operating at the infrastructure edge,

¹ Data from 2024

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and therefore physically closer to its intended users than a cloud node in a centralised data centre.

Source: Edge Observatory

Malta already has a well-connected telecommunications infrastructure and high-speed internet connectivity, able to offer latencies well below the 20 milliseconds from its centralised data centres to all areas of the Maltese islands.

Quantum computing

Target: Secure, resilient, performant, and sustainable digital infrastructures where the Union has, by 2025, its first computer with quantum acceleration, paving the way for the Union to be at the cutting edge of quantum capabilities by 2030.

KPIs:

(7) Quantum computing measured as the number of operational quantum computers or quantum simulators, including accelerators of High-Performance Computing supercomputers, deployed and accessible to the user communities.

Source: Publicly available / subscription data provision

Currently, the digital target for “Quantum Computing” is being monitored at the EU level; member states do not need to establish a trajectory.

Take up of cloud computing, big data, and AI by businesses.

Target: The digital transformation of businesses where at least 75% of Union enterprises having taken up one or more of the following, in line with their business operations: (i) cloud computing services; (ii) big data; (iii) artificial intelligence (AI).

KPIs:

(8) Cloud computing, measured as the percentage of enterprises using at least one of the following cloud computing services: finance or accounting software applications, enterprise resource planning (ERP) software applications, customer relationship management (CRM) software applications, security software applications, hosting the enterprise’s database(s), and computing

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| platform providing a hosted environment for application development, testing or deployment. | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| (9) Big data, measured as the percentage of enterprises analysing big data from any data source (internal or external). As of the 2024 report, big data will be measured by the percentage of enterprises performing data analytics (internally or externally). | | | | | | | | |
| (10) Artificial intelligence, measured as the percentage of enterprises using at least one artificial intelligence technology. | | | | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat - European Union survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises. | | | | | | | | |
| Year | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
| % Cloud (BT) | 64.40 | 66.70 | 68.60 | 70.20 | 71.60 | 72.80 | 74.00 | 75.00 |
| % Cloud (DDT) | 69.37 | 71.67 | 73.57 | 75.17 | 76.57 | 77.82 | 78.97 | 80.04 |
| % Data Analytics (BT) | 38.40 | 40.70 | 42.60 | 44.20 | 45.60 | 46.90 | 48.00 | 49.10 |
| % Data Analytics (DDT) | 40.40 | 42.70 | 44.60 | 46.20 | 47.60 | 48.85 | 50.00 | 51.07 |
| % AI (BT) | 16.00 | 18.30 | 20.20 | 21.80 | 23.20 | 24.50 | 25.60 | 26.70 |
| % AI (DDT) | 16.50 | 18.80 | 20.70 | 22.30 | 23.70 | 24.95 | 26.10 | 27.17 |
| The target specifies that at least 75% of Maltese enterprises should have taken up one or more of the following technologies: cloud computing services, big data, artificial intelligence. According to the relevant literature, an S-shaped adoption curve is the most appropriate approach to estimate the evolution of enterprise cloud services, big data, and AI take-up. | | | | | | | | |

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Digital late adopters

| Target: The digital transformation of businesses where more than 90% of the Union SMEs reaching at least a basic level of digital intensity. | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| KPI: (11) SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity, measured as the percentage of SMEs using at least 4 of 12 selected digital technologies. | | | | | | | |
| Source: Eurostat - European Union survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises. | | | | | | | |
| Year | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
| % (baseline trajectory) | 79.40 | 80.10 | 80.80 | 81.60 | 82.30 | 83.00 | 83.80 |
| % (Digital Decade trajectory) | 79.60 | 80.34 | 81.10 | 81.88 | 82.72 | 83.65 | 85.00 |

Unicorns

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| Target: The digital transformation of businesses where the Union facilitating the growth of its innovative scale-ups and improving their access to finance, leading to at least doubling the number of unicorns. |
| KPIs: (12) Unicorns, measured as the sum of unicorns referred to in Article 2, point (11)(a), of Decision (EU) 2022/2481 and those referred to in Article 2, point (11)(b), of that Decision. |
| Source: Dealroom platform. |
| To date, as detailed in the current state of play, Malta is home to four unicorns, in comparison to the 286 registered unicorns in 2024 at EU level. Taking into account Malta's unique national context and economic structure, it is recognised that, notwithstanding the substantial incentives and support mechanisms available to start-ups establishing themselves in Malta, a formal commitment to doubling the number of start-ups is not feasible. Nevertheless, Malta remains steadfast in its pursuit of a vibrant entrepreneurial environment. The |

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government continues to introduce and refine a suite of measures designed to cultivate a dynamic and responsive start-up ecosystem – one that empowers new ventures to launch efficiently, scale effectively, and achieve long-term sustainability. These ongoing efforts ensure that Malta remains an attractive and supportive destination for innovative enterprises seeking to grow and thrive.

Digitalisation of public services

Target: The digitalisation of public services where 100 % online accessible provision of key public services and, where relevant, the possibility for citizens and businesses in the Union to interact online with public administrations.

KPIs:

(13) Online provision of key public services for citizens, measured as the share of administrative steps that can be done fully online for major life events. The following life events are considered: moving; transport; starting a small claims procedure; family; career; studying; health.

(14) Online provision of key public services for businesses, measured as the share of administrative steps needed to start a business and conduct regular business operations, which can be done fully online.

Source: Commercial provider delivering a study for the Commission.

Malta has achieved the Digital Decade target of providing businesses with 100% access to key public services online and, with 99.7/100, is on target to reach 100/100 of key public services to citizens by 2030.

Electronic Health Records

Target: The digitalisation of public services where 100 % of Union citizens have access to their electronic health records.

KPI:

(15) Access to e-health records, measured as: (i) the nationwide availability of online access services for citizens to their electronic health records data (via a patient portal, or a patient mobile app) with additional measures in place that enable certain categories of people (e.g. guardians for children, people with

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| disabilities, elderly) to also access their data, and (ii) the percentage of individuals that have the ability to obtain or make use of their own minimum set of health-related data currently stored in public and private electronic health-record (EHR) systems. | | | | | | | |
| Source: Empirica GmbH and PredictBy. | | | | | | | |
| Year | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
| Score | 93.71 | | | | | | 100 |
| The absence of data for electronic health records makes the estimation of trajectories impossible. | | | | | | | |

Electronic identification (eID)

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| Target: The digitalisation of public services where 100 % of Union citizens have access to secure electronic identification (eID) means that are recognised throughout the Union, enabling them to have full control over identity transactions and shared personal data. |
| KPI: (16) Access to eID measured by two KPIs: (1) as the number of Member States that have issued a digital wallet in accordance with the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 as regards establishing a framework for a European Digital Identity and (2) as the number of Member States that have notified at least one national eID scheme in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 910/2014. |
| Source: Commission services. |
| Malta has already notified one national eID scheme in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 whilst the legislative discussions for Member States to issue digital wallets are still in progress. Malta is currently undertaking a study to determine how to implement the issuance of a digital wallet. The absence of data for electronic identity makes it not possible for the estimation of trajectories. |

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Section 4: Policies, measures, and actions to achieve the digital targets

4.1 General overview of measures per digital target

Target concerning digital skills.

National baseline value: **60.84%**² of people with at least basic digital skills, EU baseline value: 60.39%³ of people with at least basic digital skills. This Roadmap contains **21** measures that specifically target this KPI, **6** of which are new.

Overall timeline:

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measures that contribute to the target | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 1 – Reform C5-R2: Strengthening skills development and recognition, with a particular focus on low-skilled adults | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 2 – One Tablet Per Child (OTPC) project | | | | | | | | |

² Data from 2024

³ Data from 2024

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| Measure 3 - One Device Per Child (ODPC) project | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 4 - PAIDEIA project | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 5 - Digital Skills Bootcamps | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 6 - Further development of the Malta Digital Skills and Jobs Platform | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 7 - Educational Software Hub | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 8 - Implementation of the CybARverse Project | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 9 - EU Code Week | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 10 - National Strategy for Digital Education | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 11 - Digital Skilling Sessions – for refugees and their children | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 12 - Future Innovators Summer School and xPloring Intelligence Bootcamp | | | | | | | | |

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| Measure 13 - Digital literacy training for people over 15 who are not covered by compulsory education | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 14 - National Skills Strategy | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 15 - National Career Guidance Network | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 16 - Digital skills, independent and assistive living training for persons with disabilities | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 17 - Digital skills, independent and assistive living training for elderly people | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 18 - Digital Art Competition | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 19 - AI for Everyone | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 20 - Free subscription to an AI service | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 21 - Financial assistance for digital | | | | | | | | |

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| education to families with students in years 10 and 11 | | | | | | | | |
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The cumulative budget allocated to measures directly contributing to this target is estimated at approximately EUR 92.4 million. It is important to note, however, that not all measures included within the scope of this target have a defined or planned budget allocation. As such, the figure presented does not represent the full financial commitment associated with the target but rather reflects the subset of measures for which budgetary data is currently available. This approach ensures transparency while acknowledging the evolving nature of programme financing and the dynamic integration of new initiatives over time.

Assessment of the relevance and anticipated impact of the measures in addressing Member State-specific challenges:

- **Challenge 1 – Declining mathematical competency among younger students**
Measures 5, 9, 10, 12, and 15 are designed to enhance mathematical proficiency among younger students by improving curricula, integrating digital learning tools, and supporting targeted educational interventions.
- **Challenge 2 – Shortage of digital skills across the workforce**
Measures 1, 2, 3, 5, 14, 15 and 18 contribute significantly to addressing the digital skills gap through national upskilling programmes, digital literacy initiatives, and industry-aligned training schemes – collectively supporting the development of a digitally proficient workforce aligned with Malta’s strategic ambitions.
- **Challenge 3 – Bridging the digital divide and reaching marginalised communities, the elderly and persons with disabilities**
Measures 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, and 20-21 are designed to foster digital inclusion by expanding access to digital services for underserved groups, including those in remote areas, low-income households, individuals with limited formal education, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

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Target concerning ICT specialists (20 million ICT specialists reflecting 10% of the total workforce)

National baseline value: **5.2%**⁴ (percentage of the total workforce), EU baseline value: **5.0%**⁵ (percentage of the total workforce).

National baseline value: **16,700**⁶ (number of ICT specialists), EU baseline value: **10,273,600**⁷.

National baseline value: The share of ICT employment that was accounted for by men stood at **85.3%**⁸ and by women at **14.7%**.

EU baseline value: The share of ICT employment that was accounted for by men stood at **80.5%**⁹ and by women at **18.9%**.

Overall timeline:

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measures that contribute to the target | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 22 – Work Exposure Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 23 – MCAST HackSpace | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 24 – Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 25 – Formulation of the Demand and | | | | | | | | |

⁴ Data from 2024

⁵ Data from 2024

⁶ Data from 2024

⁷ Data from 2024

⁸ Data from 2024

⁹ Data from 2024

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| Supply Monitor report | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 26 - Get Qualified Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 27 - Skills Development Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 28 - Investing in Skills Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 29 - Youth Guarantee 3.0 | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 30 - Jobsplus Training Courses | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 31 - Training Pays Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 32 - Code.Sprint | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 33 - Robo.Sprint | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 34 - Security Operations Centre Analyst Training Programme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 35 - AIM (Academy of Interactive Media) | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 36 - Unity | | | | | | | | |

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| <p>project, co-funded through the Digital Europe Programme</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Measure 43 – Implementation of the HYPERSPACE project, funded through Horizon Europe</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Measure 44 – Implementation of the QUANGO project, funded through Horizon 2020</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Measure 45 – Implementation of the QUDICE project, funded through Horizon Europe</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Measure 46 – Implementation of the QSNP project, funded through Horizon Europe</p> | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Measure 47 – Containment of a high-performance computer for</p> | | | | | | | | |

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| test use by Maltese SMEs and start-ups | | | | | | | | |
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Budget of all the measures linked to the target: circa EUR 8.5M.

In what ways, and to what extent, are the proposed measures expected to effectively address the specific challenges faced by the Member State:

- Challenge 1** – Identified gaps within the value chain concerning the integration of quantum communication technologies into conventional communication networks.
All the above measures are expected to address the above challenge.
- Challenge 2** – Insufficient funding for the advancement of quantum computing hardware, coupled with extended development timelines.
Measure 42 is expected to address the above challenge.

Target concerning cloud computing, big data, and AI.

- Cloud - National baseline value: **64.93%**¹⁰, EU baseline value: **46.69%**¹¹
- Data Analytics - National baseline value: **39.01%**¹², EU baseline value: **39.85%**¹³
- AI - National baseline value: **21.56%**¹⁴, EU baseline value: **19.95%**¹⁵

Overall timeline:

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measures that contribute to the target | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 48 – SME | | | | | | | | |

¹⁰ Data from 2024

¹¹ Data from 2024

¹² Data from 2024

¹³ Data from 2024

¹⁴ Data from 2024

¹⁵ Data from 2024

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| Digitalisation Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 49 – Digital Intensification Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 50 – Digitalise your Microbusiness Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 51 – Technology Sandbox | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 52 – Malta Digital Innovation Hub | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 53 – MDIA Applied Research Grant | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 54 – National AI Strategy | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 55 – SME Guarantee Scheme (SGS) | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 56 - Guaranteed Co-Lending Scheme (GCLS) | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 57 – Digitalise your Business Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 58 - Digitalise your Large Business | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 59 – Digitalise your SME | | | | | | | | |

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| Measure 60 – SME Enhance (RSO 1.2) | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 61 – Digital Technologies Programme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 62 – Establishment of AI Factory Antenna | | | | | | | | |

Budget of all the measures linked to the target: circa EUR 225M.

As not all measures have been assigned a budget – either allocated or planned – the budget outlined above does not represent the full financial commitment associated with this target.

How and to what extent are the measures expected to address the MS-specific challenges:

- **Challenge 1** – Limitations when it comes to businesses investing more in using and developing innovative digital technologies.
Measures 48-50, 52, 55-60 are expected to assist businesses in investing more in innovative digital technologies.
- **Challenge 2** – Lack of awareness about the benefits of digital technologies, especially among the many family-owned micro, small and medium-sized businesses that make up Malta’s economy.
Measures 48-50, 57 and 59-60 are expected to address the above challenge.
- **Challenge 3** – Limited environments for individuals or companies deploying solutions in critical environments to enable the correct nurturing of such solutions in line with recognised standards.
Measures 51 and 52 are expected to address the above challenge.
- **Challenge 4** – Lack of specialised skills and technical expertise.
Measures 53-54 are expected to address the above challenge.

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*Target concerning SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity*National baseline value: **81%**¹⁶, EU baseline value: **73%**¹⁷

Overall timeline:

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measures that contribute to the target | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 63 – eBiznify courses | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 64 – Business re-engineering and transformation scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 65 – Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 66 – Mind the Gap project | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 67 - Extension and strengthening of the Micro Invest Scheme | | | | | | | | |

Budget of all the measures that can be attributed to the target: EUR 8.8M.

Not all measures had an allocated or planned budget and therefore the above budget does not reflect the total budget attributing to this target.

¹⁶ Data from 2024¹⁷ Data from 2024

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How and to what extent are the measures expected to address the MS-specific challenges:

- **Challenge 1** – Lack of advisory services to SMEs seeking to optimise the use of technology, including eCommerce expertise.
Measures 63 and 64 are expected to address the above challenge.

Target concerning Unicorns

National baseline value: **4**¹⁸, EU baseline value: **286**¹⁹

Overall timeline:

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measures that contribute to the target | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 68 – Start Up Finance scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 69 – Business Start 2021 | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 70 – Start Up Residency Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 71 – Business Development Grant | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 72 - Improvement and extension of the Seed Investment Scheme (SIS) | | | | | | | | |

¹⁸ Data from 2024

¹⁹ Data from 2024

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| Measure 73 - Start in Malta | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 74 - Venture Capital Fund | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 75 - National Malta Startup Framework | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 76- EU Startups Summit | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 77 - eSports/ Game Dev | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 78 - Basecamp Incubator | | | | | | | | |

Budget of all the measures that can be attributed to the target: EUR 142M.

Not all measures had an allocated or planned budget and therefore the above budget does not reflect the total budget attributing to this target.

How and to what extent are the measures expected to address the MS-specific challenges:

- **Challenge 1** – Investor shortages and absence of venture capital.
Measure 72-74 are expected to address the above challenge.
- **Challenge 2** – Attracting innovative startups.
Measures 73, 75 and 76-78 are expected to address the above challenge.

Target concerning online provision of key public services for citizens and businesses.

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National baseline value (key public services for citizens): **99.7/100**²⁰, EU baseline value: **82.3/100**²¹

National baseline value (key public services for businesses): **100/100**²², EU baseline value: **86.2/100**²³

Overall timeline:

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measures that contribute to the target | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 79 – Redevelopment of servizz.gov Citizen Portal | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 80 – Implementation of an interactive intelligent business portal | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 81 – Implementation of a fully automated online system for registration of businesses | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 82 – Implementation of a Central Data Repository | | | | | | | | |

²⁰ Data from 2024

²¹ Data from 2024

²² Data from 2024

²³ Data from 2024

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| Measure 83 - Investment C3-I3: Further digitalisation and modernisation of the public administration | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 84 - Servizz.gov Queue Management System (QMS) | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 85 - Software as a Service (SaaS) for Local Councils | | | | | | | | |

Budget of all the measures that can be attributed to the target: circa EUR 15.5M.

Not all measures had an allocated or planned budget and therefore the above budget does not reflect the total budget attributing to this target.

How and to what extent are the measures expected to address the MS-specific challenges:

- **Challenge 1** – Bureaucratic barriers and enhancement of user experience

Measures 79 and 84 are expected to address the identified challenge by significantly improving the user experience on the Citizen Portal. This will be achieved through the delivery of personalised content, tailored recommendations, and targeted services that reflect individual user preferences, behaviours, and needs. The forthcoming Citizen Portal is envisaged to incorporate life-event-based navigation, enabling users to access relevant information and services aligned with their specific circumstances. For instance, if a user indicates they are expecting a child, the portal will proactively offer guidance on prenatal care, maternity leave entitlements, child benefits, and available parenting resources. By

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implementing these intuitive and easily accessible digital services, the government aims to reduce bureaucratic hurdles, optimise time and resource efficiency for both citizens and public administrations, and enhance the overall quality of citizen engagement.

- **Challenge 2** – Bureaucratic barriers and absence of a harmonised platform that ties all Government business related services.

Measures 80 and 81 are expected to address the identified challenge by transforming the way businesses engage with Government services. It marks a shift from the traditional model – where services are accessed individually across multiple platforms – to a streamlined approach enabling multiple submissions through a single, integrated access point. Once operational, the Business Portal will allow entrepreneurs and their representatives to interact with Government via an intelligent and user-friendly system that automatically routes service requests to the relevant departments and entities, thereby enhancing administrative efficiency. Through this centralised platform, users will be able to open or close a business, access Government services, manage and pay taxes and licences via the Government Payment Gateway, and apply for incentives from 38 distinct Government entities – all in a seamless and consolidated manner.

- **Challenge 3** – Ease of doing business and lack of harmonisation amongst government authorities and subject persons involved in KYC processes.

Measure 82 is expected to address the identified challenge through the creation of a centralised data repository designed to support the identification of applicants during Know Your Client (KYC) procedures carried out by government authorities and subject persons. This initiative aligns with the government's commitment to the once-only principle, aiming to streamline administrative processes and enhance the ease of doing business in Malta. The proposed solution will enable seamless connectivity among all relevant government entities and subject persons involved in KYC activities, thereby improving efficiency and reducing duplication of effort.

Target concerning 100% citizen access to electronic health records.

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National baseline value: **93.7/100**²⁴, EU baseline value: **82.7/100**²⁵

Overall timeline:

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measures that contribute to the target | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 86 – Development and implementation of the Digital Health & Health Data Strategy 2030 | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 87 – Development of the myHealth portal further into a comprehensive portal for interaction of citizens and patients with the national healthcare system | | | | | | | | |

Budget of all the measures that can be attributed to the target: EUR 1.2M.

Not all measures had an allocated or planned budget and therefore the above budget does not reflect the total budget attributing to this target.

How and to what extent are the measures expected to address the MS-specific challenges:

²⁴ Data from 2024

²⁵ Data from 2024

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- **Challenge 1** - Malta only scores **55%**²⁶ regarding healthcare providers connected and supplying relevant health data, significantly lower than the EU average score of **72%**, as health data is mainly supplied by government-owned healthcare institutions.

Measure 87 is expected to address the above challenge as it will lead to availability of private healthcare data through the myHealth portal.

Target concerning access to eID.

Overall timeline:

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Measures that contribute to the target | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 88 – Development of a formal framework to boost the use of eID for digital signatures | | | | | | | | |
| Measure 89 – Implementation of a ‘digital wallet’ that can store an electronic version of all official documents | | | | | | | | |

Budget of all the measures that can be attributed to the target: EUR1M.

4.2 Description of the measures

Measure 1 – Reform C5-R2: Strengthening skills development and recognition, with a particular focus on low-skilled adults

²⁶ 2025 Digital Decade eHealth Indicator Study

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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Reform C5-R2: Strengthening skills development and recognition, with a particular focus on low- skilled adults | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The objective of this reform is to expand upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all adults regardless of their employment status, including the low-skilled whose participation in lifelong learning is particularly low. The reform shall consist of setting up an e-College offering comprehensive online courses as well as online coaches and help desk to assist learners. The e-college shall be complemented by a hub facility providing physical space with technical equipment and in-person coaching for adults who are lacking digital skills or equipment to access courses online. A mentoring and guidance unit shall also be set up to provide guidance services to adults seeking the best educational trajectory to match their upskilling and reskilling needs as well as counselling in general wellbeing. The reform shall further include the implementation of three (3) measures on developing an adult learning guidance system, including capacity building for adult learning professionals and establishing guidance networks.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is focused on digital skills and in particular promotes the enhancement of upskilling and reskilling. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i>Timeline:</i> End of 2024.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – | Reforms have no financial allocation under RRF. |

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| including human resources – allocated: | |
| Expected impact and related timing: | At least 4800 learners shall be using the services provided through the new e-College platform by Q4 2024. |

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| Measure 2 – One Tablet Per Child (OTPC) project | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| One Tablet Per Child (OTPC) project | <p><u><i>Content of the measure:</i></u> The main objective of the OTPC project was to provide tablets to Year 4, 5, and 6 students. Through this project, the Ministry ensured that all students gain basic digital skills, especially those who come from low-income families and would not have access to technology at home. The project also funded a set of VR (Virtual Reality) headsets for each college, Catch-up classes (for students who require extra tuition), 1000 exam reader pens for students with reading difficulties and the provision of a Master's Degree that specialises in Poverty, Social Inclusion and Early Leaving from Education and Training (ELET). Since the OTPC EU funded project is approaching completion, plans are underway for the continuation of the measures supported by national funds.</p> <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> The measure is focused on digital skills and in particular promotes the enhancement of digital skills and the use of digital tools for learning. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> |

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| | <p><u><i>Tentative timeline:</i></u> Throughout the scholastic year 2023-2024, Year 4 students will be given a tablet. The Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills will be organising the Refresher courses and courses for teachers who need assistance in using all applications available on the tablet or did not receive OTPC training.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>Human resources: Management: Project Leader, 2 Senior Managers and one Manager II, 1 Technical person.</p> <p>2 Heads of Department to organise and deliver training. Support by all Heads of Department and Support Teachers throughout the year in schools.</p> <p>IMU support the project from a technical perspective in the maintenance of tablets and school infrastructure.</p> <p>Estimated Budget can be provided at a later stage.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced Learning: Year 4-6 students will benefit from personalized learning experiences, with access to a wealth of digital resources and educational content. 2. Teacher Empowerment: Educators and school leaders will be equipped with the skills and tools to effectively leverage technology in the classroom. 3. Safety and Security: Robust filtering and endpoint protection will ensure a safe online environment for students, promoting responsible digital citizenship. 4. Improved Education Standards: The project aims to raise educational standards in Malta by modernizing the learning process and preparing students for the digital age. |

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| | 5. Contribute to combating Early School Leaving. Students who are motivated through engaging learning are less likely to drop out of school before they reach the age of compulsory education. |
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| Measure 3 – One Device Per Child (ODPC) project. | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| One Device Per Child (ODPC) project | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR) is embarking on a transformative project aimed at enhancing education through the distribution of laptops to Year 7 students, educational digital content and software, professional development for educators and school leaders, cloud-based classroom management solutions, and online safety.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is focused on digital skills and in particular promotes the enhancement of digital skills and the use of digital tools for learning. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><u>Timeline:</u> As part of this project, a request for tender was issued in September 2023 for the provision of access to all Grade 7 students for a selection of mainstream Digital Content that cover the Subject curricula and specifications set out by subject specialists. Students in Year 7 will also be receiving their laptop during the scholastic year 2023/2024. The tender for Professional Development was</p> |

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| | <p>published in October 2023. The tender for the provision of laptops was awarded and laptops were delivered at the beginning of scholastic year 2025 to 3 cohorts (Year 7 – 9) this year only; as of Scholastic Year 2026-2027, only to Year 7.</p> <p>Classroom management system (CMS) is up and running in primary; training to middle and secondary schools started in October 2025;</p> <p>Digital subjects – English, Science and Maltese to be available by end of 2025.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>Human resources: Management: Project Leader, 2 Senior Managers and one Manager II, 1 Technical person.</p> <p>2 Heads of Department to organise and deliver training. Support by all Heads of Department and Support Teachers throughout the year in schools.</p> <p>IMU support the project from a technical perspective in the maintenance of hardware, systems and school infrastructure.</p> <p>Budget allocated to this measure is circa EUR 80M.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>1. Enhanced Learning: Year 7 students will benefit from personalised learning experiences, with access to a wealth of digital resources and educational content.</p> <p>2. Teacher Empowerment: Educators and school leaders will be equipped with the skills and tools to effectively leverage technology in the classroom.</p> <p>3. Safety and Security: Robust filtering and endpoint protection will ensure a safe online environment for students, promoting responsible digital citizenship.</p> |

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| | <p>4. Improved Education Standards: The project aims to raise educational standards in Malta by modernizing the learning process and preparing students for the digital age.</p> <p>5. Contribute to combating Early School Leaving. Students who are motivated through engaging learning are less likely to drop out of school before they reach the age of compulsory education.</p> |
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| <p>Measure 4 – PAIDEIA (Preparing teachers for the AI Development in Education as an Innovative Asset) project.</p> | |
| New measure | <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no</p> |
| PAIDEIA project | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> PAIDEIA (Preparing teachers for the AI Development in Education as an Innovative Asset) designs activities to equip teachers with the essential skills and competencies needed to understand, apply, and manage the characteristics and potential of AI in education. This is achieved through comprehensive teacher training programs that are based on an AI and Education (AI&ED) competencies framework, a standardised curriculum, and tailored training materials. These programs also emphasise ethical considerations and responsible AI usage, helping educators avoid potential counterproductive applications, such as those related to bias, privacy concerns, and over-reliance on automated tools. The project combines research, training, and policy-making efforts to ensure that each phase of the work program is grounded in current findings and aligned with relevant educational priorities.</p> |

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| | <p>Through this project, the Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills (DDLTS) will initiate a pilot project on AI with the involvement of the project partners to share the experiences gained, the knowledge and outcomes acquired that will be conducted in a number of Maltese state schools. The project will provide the design and piloting of AI powered data insights and AI infused adaptive (personalised) learning systems with the support of teachers/educators to drive better educational outcomes based on student performance, ambitions and needs. The project will help teachers/educators to build more formative assessments of the pupils' capabilities. It is anticipated that this will pave the way for AI to become embedded horizontally across all aspects of the curricula where AI tools will gradually be used by educators and schools to the benefit of their students. The project will also organise the European Congress of AI in Education which will be held in Malta.</p> <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> The measure is focused on digital skills and in particular promotes the enhancement of digital skills and the use of digital tools for learning. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><u><i>Tentative timeline:</i></u> The project duration is 3 years. The results were published in August 2023.</p> <p>During 2025, the DDLTS internally tested an AI online course which will be offered to Educators during the scholastic year 2025-26.</p> <p>Digital literacy outcomes (LOs) were tested and will be included embedded across curriculum from primary level though secondary level schools.</p> |
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| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | Human resources : Management :Project Leader, one Manager II, 1 Technical person. Additional ad-hoc staff to contribute to some of the deliverables. Estimated Budget: EUR 106, 000 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research about knowing and understanding the state of the art on AI&ED and its provisional future impact. • AI&ED competence framework (aligned with the existing EU Frameworks) for updating teachers' skills in view of transforming teaching approaches while using AI&ED (so to foster capabilities that would be central to role of teacher as catalysts in sequencing and orchestrating AI-based teaching). • Spiral curriculum (training course/learning materials supported by an e-platform that will be active after the project end) that will cover the competence framework to develop awareness and skills of teaching using AI&ED in pedagogically ethical ways. |

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| Measure 5 – Digital Skills Bootcamps. | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digital Skills Bootcamps | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> These bootcamps are aimed to develop trainee youths and adults interested in pursuing a career in ICT and to improve teachers' skills and competencies using digital tools and methods. The target groups of the Annual Digital Skills Bootcamp are the education sector (students and teachers),</p> |

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| | <p>SMEs (business leaders and employees), society (youth adults and the elderly), and the ICT sector.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> This measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> This measure is implemented on an annual basis and is expected to continue to be implemented to adhere to the 2030 target.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>National (planned): EUR 60,000 to EUR 80,000 annually.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>Since 2019, 1760 individuals have attended this initiative, with 800 of those in 2023.</p> <p>In 2024, the coding bootcamps offered multi-tiered digital-skilling program, from youth summer camps to adult upskilling. With a strong emphasis on inclusion (gender, age, profession), hands-on learning, EU-aligned goals, they aimed to strengthen Malta’s talent pipeline in software, AI, cybersecurity, and other areas, building on the solid success of 2023. In 2024, 105 sessions were organised, in which 920 students participated, with a total number of 2831.47 hours.</p> <p>In 2025, the MDIA issued a Call for Proposals focused on strengthening digital skills and literacy across four key societal segments (1) Generic Public, 2) Women, 3) Teachers, Educators & Trainers, and 4) a SMEs and ICT organisations.</p> <p>The MDIA is currently in the process of reviewing the applications submitted by interested organisations in response to these specific calls.</p> |

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| Measure 6 – Further development of the Malta Digital Skills and Jobs Platform | |
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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Further development of the Malta Digital Skills and Jobs Platform | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> MDIA is participating in an EU-funded project under the Digital Europe Programme (DEP), which commenced in March 2025. The project, titled Champions for the Digital Decade (C4DD), is led by a consortium headed by European Schoolnet.</p> <p>The Maltese Digital Skills and Jobs Platform (codenamed LISP) is a single point of access on digital skills to a multitude of national stakeholders, including students, employees, unemployed, enterprises, education providers, policy makers and other interested in digital skills training, good practices, skills intelligence, training resources, funding opportunities, news and events. The platform facilitates interaction within the Coalitions' community across the EU and is achieved through integration with the European Core Service Platform (CSP) installed at the European Commission.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is focused on increasing the digital skills of a multitude of national stakeholders, including students, employees, unemployed, enterprises, education providers, policy makers and others interested in digital skills training, good practices, skills intelligence, training resources, funding opportunities, news and events. The measure is expected to bridge the gap in both digital literacy and ICT employment alike.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u></p> |

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| | <p>In April 2023, the eSkills Malta Foundation launched the first version of the online Malta Digital Skills and Jobs Platform. The Platform will continue to be further developed to introduce other functionalities. In 2025 the eSkills Malta Foundation was merged into the MDIA which has now taken over all aspects of the project.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>2021-2024 EUR 140,000 (co-funded by the EU). 2024-2026 EUR 70,000 (EU-funded)</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>The development of the Maltese Digital Skills and Jobs Platform was finalised in 2023. This was followed by the content population of the platform, including resources in the form of articles, courses, events, initiatives, best practices and updates from the Core System of the Commission, downloading the same resources happening in other EU member states, and the uploading of same to the European core system. Localisation was also carried out, where translation of the content from English to Maltese and vice versa was implemented using the eTranslation block of the European Commission. The platform went live in August 2024 and is currently viewed by around 6,500 people every month.</p> <p>This initiative has been extended for another two years in 2024 as part of the Digital Europe Programme EU funding. The project is currently in progress. MDIA is participating in an EU-funded project under the Digital Europe Programme (DEP), which commenced in March 2025. The project, titled Champions for the Digital Decade (C4DD), is led by a consortium headed by European Schoolnet.</p> <p>As part of this initiative, the Malta Digital Skills and Jobs Platform — known locally as LISP — is set to be continuously updated and enhanced. The aim is</p> |

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| | to ensure that the platform remains a dynamic and relevant national reference point for digital skills opportunities, training, resources, and policy developments. This effort will contribute towards aligning national objectives with the broader targets of the EU Digital Decade. |
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| Measure 7 – Educational Software Hub | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Educational Software Hub | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> To facilitate remote learning, the Ministry for Education, Youth, Sport and Innovation has committed to investing in an educational app store that will enable teachers and students in state schools to download licensed educational software to their own devices.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is focused on digital skills and in particular promotes the enhancement of digital skills and the use of digital tools for teaching and learning. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The measure started in 2022 and is expected to continue running till 2027.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 1,045,000M (EUR 209,000 annually) |

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| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>Such a measure facilitates remote working for users extending digital resources beyond the school computers, beyond the school building making them available anywhere while still maintaining control over all our corporate software licence distribution.</p> <p>During 2025, an education Lab was set up with a focus on digital skills. and in particular for promoting the enhancement of digital skills and the use of digital tools for teaching and learning. The Lab resources are constantly being upgraded to ensure that eucators and students have the utmost benefit.</p> |
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| <p>Measure 8 – Implementation of the CybARverse Project</p> | |
| <p>New measure</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no</p> |
| <p>Implementation of the CybARverse Project</p> | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u></p> <p>CybARverse is a strategic partnership project funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union. This project supports the cyber-resilience of Vocational Education and Training (VET) for the organisations involved. To ensure that Cybersecurity knowledge is put into practice, this initiative makes use of Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) to support cybersecurity awareness and literacy in a more efficient way, as well as to transfer knowledge to professional competences. The project provides cybersecurity awareness and literacy for vocational training staff in working with digital tools.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u></p> |

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| | <p>The measure is focused on digital literacy along with the responsible and safe use of technology. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> Project is to be concluded by end of 2024.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EU (allocated): EUR 32,000 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>Qualification of up to 20 VET teachers and trainers to become cybersecurity aware and literate, thereby promoting professional, personal and digital skills among VET teachers and trainers for the field of cybersecurity. This pilot project will serve as a platform for a CybARverse Academy, concluding in December 2024.</p> <p>To date Malta has trained 60 Teachers/Trainers from the Academy. An agreement has been reached with the Directorate of Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills to keep using the CybARverse Academy to further train their teaching staff in 2025 by using the platform created through the project in their lessons on cybersecurity.</p> |

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| Measure 9 – EU Code Week | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| EU Code Week | <i>Content of the measure:</i> |

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| | <p>EU Code Week is a grassroots initiative which aims to bring coding and digital literacy to everybody in a fun and engaging way. As the Maltese Ambassador for this European initiative, MDIA engages with fellow organisers and participants to inspire the development of coding and computational thinking skills in order to explore new ideas and innovate for the future.</p> <p>As part of the EU CodeWeek initiatives, the MDIA is once again collaborating with SkolaSajf to deliver robotics sessions at 30 SkolaSajf centres, with two sessions held at each location. Also as part of the EU CodeWeek initiative an RFQ for the call of Coding tutors is being issued to deliver coding sessions in Government, State and Independent school in the scholastic year 2025/2026.</p> <p>The MDIA has joined JA Europe in an EU-funded project named Code4Europe to boost EU Codeweek. This project started on the 1st of July 2024 for two years.</p> <p><i><u>Link to the target:</u></i> The measure is focused on coding and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i><u>Tentative timeline:</u></i> The programme is on an annual basis and is expected to keep running till 2030.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>The budget associated to this is EUR 10,000 annually (national), plus an addition EU funding of €90,000 between 2024 and 2026.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>Malta has previously ranked in the top places regarding the number of events carried out per capita, and it aims to ensure that this trend is</p> |

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| | <p>continued. This event is posed to increase the awareness about the benefits of coding and increase the confidence in the use of technology by the Maltese population.</p> <p>In 2024, Malta yet again was ranked 1st amongst member states for the number of events organised per capita.</p> <p>In 2025, continuing Malta’s commitment to nurturing digital talent and innovation, the MDIA is organising the launch for EU Code Week 2025, which is scheduled for October. During the EU Code Week launch, a new funding scheme will be introduced to provide up to €1000 in financial support to individuals who successfully enrol in and complete short-term coding courses.</p> <p>Two exciting competitions will also be announced. Microsoft will be endorsing the “Minecraft Education Challenge: Malta Competition”, which will be unveiled on the day. A second competition which will recognise the top school that registers the highest number of EU Code Week activities in Malta / Gozo by the end of April 2026, will also be launched.</p> <p>Furthermore, a series of EU Code Week Talks was scheduled for November, covering themes such as gaming and tech careers, cybersecurity, app development, cybercrime awareness, and an introduction to AI and machine learning.</p> |
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| Measure 10 – National Strategy for Digital Education | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| National Strategy for Digital Education | <u>Content of the measure:</u> |

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| | <p>The Digital Education Strategy 2025-2030 is Malta’s comprehensive plan to transform its educational system to prepare students for a digitally-driven future and align with European digital literacy goals. The strategy, with an overarching aim to reach 80% basic digital literacy by 2030, is built on four main pillars: fostering Global Digital Citizens, Empowering Educators, Enhancing Community Engagement, and Expanding Digital Resources. Key initiatives include integrating ICT and digital literacy from primary through secondary education, advancing digital citizenship and online safety, fostering a digital school culture, and providing professional development for educators. The Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation is committed to work with key stakeholders from the non-governmental and private sector to create a truly effective digital education ecosystem that will provide the skills required for tomorrow’s workforce. The Government economic vision for the next decade includes education as one of the five pillars that underscore its successful attainment. The role of education is seen as crucial in equipping the future workforce with the skills to meet the demand of the digital economy, specifically skills in AI, Virtual Reality, and other related digital specialisations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. Integrate ICT and digital literacy from primary to secondary education</i> DDLTS staff is actively developing digital literacy learning outcomes (LOs) to be embedded across the curriculum from primary through secondary levels.<i>2. Promote digital citizenship and online safety</i> DDLTS has published the second edition of the Young People and Misinformation Manifesto 2.0 in collaboration with the 3CL Foundation. |
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| | <p>Additionally, several initiatives are underway to promote digital citizenship, including the use of eTwinning as a platform to support responsible and active digital engagement.</p> <p>3. <i>Encourage a digital school culture</i> The Digital Education Strategy 2025–2030 promotes a whole-school approach to digital transformation. This includes fostering a culture where digital tools and practices are integrated into all aspects of school life—from leadership and teaching practices to administration and student learning.</p> <p>DDLTS supports this through strategic initiatives such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encouraging schools to develop digital vision statements aligned with national goals b) Promoting the use of Digital School Development Plans (DSDPs) c) Supporting leadership teams in adopting digital innovation frameworks d) Facilitating collaboration across schools through networks like eTwinning and SCHOOLNET <p>This cultural shift is reinforced by targeted professional development, increased access to devices and connectivity, and national digital literacy benchmarks that guide school progress.</p> <p>4. <i>Promote Equity and Access to Technology</i> To ensure that every child has access to the tools needed for digital learning, 2in1 devices have been distributed to Year 4 and Year 5 students in primary schools. Furthermore, laptops will be distributed to secondary school students in the upcoming scholastic year, supporting equitable access to technology across all levels of education.</p> <p>5. <i>Provide professional development for educators</i></p> |
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| | <p>DDLTS staff regularly deliver a range of professional development (PD) sessions aimed at equipping educators with digital pedagogical skills and the capacity to integrate technology effectively into their practice.</p> <p><i><u>Link to the target:</u></i> The measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i><u>Tentative timeline:</u></i> The strategy will cover 2024 – 2030, with projected annual reviews.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>Following a request form the director of the respective section, the DG People Management will accommodate the request based on the approved HR Plan (Capacity Building) for that respective year.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>The National Strategy for Digital Education will strive to scale down the digital divide by spearheading measures that will increase access to technology and digital competences for society but also address specific needs of different social groups. Workforce readiness, empowering educators, fostering community engagement, and lowering early school leaving rates are also key anticipated impacts of the Digital Education Strategy.</p> <p>During 2025, digital literacy outcomes (LOs) were developed . These will be embedded in the primary and secondary schools in connection with the DES. The following are then planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with EOs Curriculum, Heads of School, and key stakeholders to raise awareness about the Digital Education Strategy and provide support for its smooth implementation across all schools. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish dedicated working groups to support the effective implementation and ongoing monitoring of the Strategy’s actions. • Commence implementation of Pillar 1 by embedding digital literacy, eSafety, and introductory AI concepts in primary and secondary, while also advancing actions under Pillar 2 and Pillar 3. • Finalise the draft Learning Outcomes for Digital Literacy to facilitate the integration of digital competences across all subjects. • Begin gathering data on digital skills gaps to inform the design of targeted training programmes for educators. • Initiate discussions on a comprehensive Digital Safety and Ethics Policy for schools, as well as AI guidelines. • Organisation of the Digital Literacy Awards to showcase best practice and encourage innovation. |
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| Measure 11 – Digital Skilling Sessions – for refugees and children | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digital Skilling Sessions – for refugees and children | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> This is part of the Annual Digital Bootcamp for women and girls. In 2023, the eSkills foundation will organise an in-person course for strengthening refugee and ex-pats girls’ IT Skills. The course includes basic programming concepts, animation, storytelling, game design, and robotics.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i></p> |

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| | <p>The measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills and gender convergence target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> September 2023.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 3,000 – EUR 4,000 annually |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The refugee women is a distinct target group that at times is forgotten by stakeholders. This course sought the upskilling of refuge female children Therefore, this initiative is part of the concept for upskilling to be accessible to all, especially marginalised groups.</p> <p>This course has been concluded in 2023. 20 attendees attended the courses.</p> |

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| Measure 12 – Future Innovators Summer School and xPloring Intelligence Bootcamp | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Future Innovators Summer School and xPloring Intelligence Bootcamp | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The Future Innovators Summer School is aimed at teens aged thirteen (13) to fifteen (15) years old, with the goal of assisting young minds in providing creative abilities in artificial intelligence and digital innovation, which are essential for all career pathways in all sectors with the goal of assisting young minds in providing creative abilities in artificial intelligence and digital innovation, which are essential for all career pathways in all sectors.</p> |

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| | <p>In 2025, the MDIA launched another summer school called Robotech Summer School. The Robotech Summer School offers a high-energy, hands-on programme for teens aged 13–17 who want to explore the world of robotics and engineering.</p> <p>Over the course of four weeks, participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, assemble, and programme their own functional robot • Learn essential theory and practical skills in robotics, electronics, and technology. • Enhance problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork. <p>The sessions combine knowledge-based learning with practical experience, starting with basic concepts and advancing to more complex ones, with guidance at every step.</p> <p>The Xploring Intelligence Bootcamp will be aimed at preteens attending scholastic year 7 to year 9 during the scholastic year 2023-2024. This bootcamp focuses on assisting young minds in providing creative abilities in artificial intelligence and digital innovation, which are essential for all career pathways in all sectors.</p> <p>In 2024 the MDIA launched the Gozo Tech Whiz summer school to address the needs of young ones living in Gozo. Following its success, another edition was launched in 2025. The Gozo Tech Whiz is a 6-week summer school during July and August 2025, covering the following topics: Robotics, Coding, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and YouTube®/Video Production.</p> <p>This programme is targeted at youngsters aged between 6 and 12 years old.</p> <p>In 2025: 366 students registered for these initiatives.</p> |
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| | <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is focused on digital creativity and innovation and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The bootcamps shall run till 2025.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 185,817 (between 2023 and 2025, all national funds) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>Teens who finish the summer school program and bootcamp will have a greater grasp of artificial intelligence and digital innovation, as well as a stepping stone for them to continue their education at the secondary and perhaps postsecondary and tertiary levels.</p> <p>Attendees: 2023: 108 2024: 350 2025: 328</p> |

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| Measure 13 – Digital literacy training for people over 15 who are not covered by compulsory education | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digital literacy training for people over 15 who are not covered by compulsory education | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Employability (DRLLE) within the Ministry for Education, Youth, Sport and Innovation, initiated courses in the academic year 2022/23 to promote</p> |

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| | <p>21st Century skills. The below courses are open to students who are not covered by compulsory education i.e. age 15+. There is no upper age limit, and these courses include digital literacy, media literacy, and personal finance.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is focused on digital literacy and digital inclusion and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> Courses are offered on an ongoing basis by the DRLLE.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | Following a request form the director of the respective section, the DG People Management will accommodate the request based on the approved HR Plan (Capacity Building) for that respective year. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Increased participation in adult learning of all kinds (formal, non-formal and informal learning), whether for the acquisition of work skills, for active citizenship, or for personal development and fulfilment. |

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| Measure 14 – National Skills Strategy | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| National Skills Strategy | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The first National Skills Strategy for Malta will be developed in the context of the increasingly dynamic world of work driven by, but not limited to, the twin transitions (green and digital),</p> |

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| | <p>underpinning Malta's future growth as an economy and as a society. A whole-of-government approach will be adopted to the design and implementation of the strategy given the horizontality of skills development throughout public policy. In parallel, strong cooperation with industry will be secured to build robust intelligence to optimise policy recommendations and liaise with the education and training sector to align practices accordingly.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is focused on skill development and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> January 2024 – December 2025.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>EUR 200,000</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>It will aim to provide an array of long-term policy recommendations to boost the domestic supply of the necessary future skills and reduce reliance on imported talent over time, ensuring the retention in competitiveness and increased productivity.</p> <p>In 2024, the National Skills Council secured EU funding through the Technical Support Instrument to develop Malta's National Skills Strategy. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the European Commission, the OECD and Transport Malta, as the project includes a parallel objective to conduct a sector-specific skills gap analysis of the maritime sector.</p> <p>During 2024, the initial phases of the project were completed. These included desk research mapping existing initiatives across Malta's skills landscape,</p> |

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| | <p>as well as structured stakeholder engagement through an introductory consultation workshop. This early work led to the identification of eight priority areas that will form the core focus of the National Skills Strategy, ensuring that the strategy is grounded in national needs and informed by stakeholder perspectives.</p> <p>In 2025, work on the National Skills Strategy advanced significantly. Stakeholder engagement was further intensified through additional consultation workshops, allowing a wider range of government institutions, employer representatives, education and training institutions, social partners, and sectoral representatives to contribute to the shaping of the Strategy and its recommendations.</p> <p>The year also featured an international peer learning workshop, which brought together experts and counterparts from other countries to exchange experiences and good practices in skills policy, governance, and implementation. These discussions provided valuable insights and helped benchmark Malta's approach against international standards.</p> <p>In parallel, a series of bilateral meetings were held with key entities to explore specific policy areas in greater depth and ensure alignment with existing strategies and initiatives. Drawing on the evidence gathered, stakeholder input, and international insights, 2025 focused on the drafting and refinement of policy recommendations across the eight priority areas, laying the groundwork for the finalisation and implementation of the National Skills Strategy. The recommendations focus on strengthening skills intelligence and foresight, improving access to career guidance and learning opportunities, supporting educators and learners at all stages of life, engaging employers, maximising</p> |
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| | talent, and reinforcing coordination and governance across the skills system. |
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| Measure 15 – National Career Guidance Network | |
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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| National Career Guidance Network | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> This measure aims to bring together all local career guidance stakeholders to develop a framework. The framework shall address career guidance, incentives for improved skills provision by employers, increased participation by employees and targeted public approaches for reaching out to inactive and unemployed individuals, those not in employment, education or training (NEETs) or individuals at risk of unemployment.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is focused on digital inclusion and minimising the digital divide and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> To be set up in Q3 2024.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 50,000 for 2024-2025. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | In April 2024, the National Skills Council (NSC), together with the Ministry for Education, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR), launched the National Career Guidance Network (NCGN) consultation process. The aim was to establish a unified and comprehensive network bringing |

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| | <p>together career guidance service providers, employers, and HR professionals.</p> <p>In the third quarter of 2024, the NSC initiated a bottom-up consultation process with local stakeholders to map the existing career guidance landscape and inform the drafting of the network's terms of reference. 22 representative organisations/individuals were subsequently invited to join the network's committee. Each member represents a primary stakeholder organisation, collectively bringing together employers, career guidance and HR practitioners, employment advisers, and policymakers. The committee is chaired by the NSC.</p> <p>The network and its committee were officially launched on 17th December at an event held at the National Skills Council. During the event, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) presented key findings from its report Teenage Career Development in Malta. Commissioned by the NSC, this report represents one of the first major initiatives of the National Career Guidance Network. The study analysed data from the OECD's 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and examined the state of career development among 15-year-olds in Malta.</p> <p>In 2025, four quarterly committee meetings were held, enabling members to share ongoing work in career guidance, raise awareness of services, strengthen collaboration, and act as sector ambassadors.</p> <p>As part of the National Career Guidance Network objectives, the National Skills Council (NSC) delivered professional development sessions for PSCD educators (x3), career guidance practitioners (x5), and human resource professionals (x5).</p> |
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| | <p>The NCGN webpage was launched in September 2025: https://nscmalta.gov.mt/career-guidance</p> <p>The NICE Academy 2025 conference, Career Guidance for Sustainable Futures – Communities, Boundaries and Transitions, was held in Malta from 10–13 September 2025 and organised by the NSC in collaboration with the Network for Innovation in Career Guidance and Counselling in Europe (NICE). https://nice-network.eu/Events/Malta-2025/</p> <p>In parallel, in September 2025, the NSC launched the Emerging Careers Awareness Campaign to promote emerging careers, parity of esteem between vocational and academic pathways, and access to career guidance, including free services. While the campaign has concluded, its digital resources remain available, alongside printed materials distributed to key stakeholders: https://nscmalta.gov.mt/awareness-campaign</p> <p>A research study on adult career choices and progression, based on responses from approximately 500 participants, was completed and findings and recommendations were disseminated in November during Skillscape 2025.</p> <p>Work is underway to finalise the tender specifications for the State of Play report which will now also cover the full policy development cycle to develop a National Career Guidance Policy. Committee members supported in providing information on studies and initiatives to identify gaps, avoid duplication of research efforts.</p> |
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| Measure 16 – Digital skills, independent and assistive living training for persons with disabilities | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes |

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| | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digital skills, independent and assistive living training for persons with disabilities | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA) provides basic and intermediate ICT training for persons with disabilities and older adults to promote digital inclusion, while also conducting assistive technology (AT) assessments and delivering individualized digital skills training using adaptive hardware and software. Additionally, FITA supports national digital literacy initiatives and bootcamps by integrating accessibility modules and ensuring disability representation throughout these programmes.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is focused on digital literacy and digital inclusion and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> Ongoing</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | FITA funding + internal staff assessors + HR staff (Trainers) Equipment and AT provided through FITA inventory + Collaborative projects + FITA contribution in expertise and staff time. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The initiative aims to increase inclusion within national digital skills targets, enhancing employability and independence among vulnerable groups by improving access to technology for persons with disabilities and promoting greater digital participation. It also supports the adoption of smart home technologies to enable independent living, while strengthening coordination with national frameworks and improving accessibility and inclusion metrics. |

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| Measure 17 – Digital skills, independent and assistive living training for elderly people | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digital skills, independent and assistive living training for elderly people | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA) conducts regular awareness and outreach sessions across Malta and Gozo focused on accessibility, digital tools, and assistive technology, while also establishing a smart home demonstration space to showcase digital assistive technologies and provide hands-on training for visitors on smart accessibility tools.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is focused on digital literacy and digital inclusion and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> Ongoing</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | UK based University + FITA internal staff + FITA staff and outreach resources (transport, equipment) + coordination with local councils, care homes, and community centres. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The initiative promotes the adoption of smart home technologies to support inclusion and independent living, while raising broader community awareness around assistive technology and digital inclusion. It also aims to strengthen coordination with national frameworks and improve accessibility and inclusion metrics at a national level. |

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| Measure 18 – Digital Art Competition |
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| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digital Art Competition | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The measure involves organising a national annual Digital Art Competition for youth. It includes a call for participation, evaluation and judging of submissions, a public exhibition, and an awards ceremony. The initiative promotes creativity through the use of digital tools, including photography, encouraging students to apply media and digital literacy skills in their artistic expression.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is focused on promoting digital creativity, media literacy, and youth engagement in digital skills among students from both state and non-state schools. It directly contributes to the achievement of the national digital skills and media literacy targets, as media literacy empowers young people to create, interpret, and communicate responsibly through digital media.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> This is expected to become an annual educational event.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | €5k yearly (national) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The competition is held annually, typically between March and June. Themes are changed every year to encourage fresh perspectives and creativity among participants. It is expected to increase participation in creative digital activities among students and raise awareness of the importance of digital and |

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| | media literacy skills. The initiative fosters creativity, critical thinking, and responsible digital communication, while promoting the use of digital tools for artistic and educational purposes. |
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| Measure 19 – AI for Everyone | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| AI for Everyone | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> This initiative offers free AI courses complete with national certification to foster digital literacy and inclusion across society. It provides tailored practical sessions specifically designed to equip parents, students, workers, and the elderly with the necessary skills for the safe and responsible use of AI and related technologies. This broad approach aims to ensure that no demographic is left behind in the advancing digital economy.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is focused on promoting digital creativity, media literacy, and youth engagement in digital skills among students from both state and non-state schools. It directly contributes to the achievement of the national digital skills and media literacy targets, as media literacy empowers young people to create, interpret, and communicate responsibly through digital media.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> 2026 - 2029</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – | EUR 325,000 |

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| including human resources – allocated: | |
| Expected impact and related timing: | This measure will help create better-informed citizens, reduce the digital divide, and increase the safe and responsible use of technology. Discussions on the implementation of this measure have already started in October 2025, beginning with the identification of the terms and conditions of the AI courses that will be developed. It is envisioned that this measure will be completed by the end of 2026, when the AI courses are launched. |

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| Measure 20 – Free subscription to an AI service | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Free subscription to an AI service | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The measure provides a free subscription to a dedicated AI service for all eligible citizens. after the completion of the free AI course (Measure 19 above). This crucial offering allows individuals to immediately apply the skills and knowledge gained from the associated training courses in a practical, hands-on environment, promoting continuous learning. By ensuring accessible, practical usage, the service helps reinforce AI literacy and integrate the responsible use of these technologies into daily personal and professional life.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is focused on promoting digital creativity, media literacy, and youth engagement in digital skills among students from both state and non-state schools. It directly contributes to the achievement of the national digital skills and media literacy targets, as media literacy empowers young</p> |

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| | <p>people to create, interpret, and communicate responsibly through digital media.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> 2026 - 2027</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 5,150,000 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>Through the free subscription to an AI service, citizens will have the opportunity to continue applying the skills they have learned. This facilitates continuous learning and strengthens the practical use of AI in daily life.</p> <p>In October 2025, the MDIA began discussions to identify the company that will provide this service. It is expected that the measure will be completed by June 2026, when the online platform for the AI courses will be updated to include the issuance of licensed subscriptions.</p> |

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| Measure 21 – Financial assistance for digital education to families with students in years 10 and 11 | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Financial assistance for digital education to families with students in years 10 and 11 | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> This measure provides financial assistance of €500 to all families with students in years 10 and 11. It is central to strengthening digital education and ensuring that every student has fair access to modern learning. This aid will help families to</p> |

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| | <p>purchase electronic equipment or digital devices — such as laptops or tablets — that allow students to follow online learning and use digital educational resources outside the classroom. The scheme is part of a larger strategy for the digitalisation of education, which also includes the distribution of hundreds of devices to students in new schools and the improvement of the curriculum to focus on digital, numerical skills and competences needed for the future. This step addresses the technology access gap — thereby helping to ensure that learning and achieving educational potential are distributed more equally, regardless of the family’s economic situation.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is focused on digital literacy and digital inclusion and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> 2026</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | TBC |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The families of 8,500 students in Year 10 and 11 will avail themselves from this measure, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5300 from state schools; • 3200 from Church and Independent schools. |

Measure 22 – **Work Exposure Scheme**

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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Work Exposure Scheme | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The Work Exposure Scheme provides individuals with short-term placements in real work environments, allowing them to develop both soft and technical skills. This scheme is designed to mirror contemporary labour market demand, whereby the job preferences of the jobseekers are matched with employers' requests. WES 2.1 is open for persons of working-age who are not in employment; are not attending formal education and are of working age at the time of application. WES 2.2 is open for is open for persons aged 17 to 24 and who are attending a higher education institute at the time of application.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is focused on empowering individuals to become better equipped for employment and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target in terms of ICT employment.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> This scheme will be co-financed by the European Social Fund 2021-2027. The call for applications was published on 28th September 2023 and will close on 31st January 2024. The scheme will be re-launched once the application is approved by the Managing Authority.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | Total Budget allocated for the Work Exposure Scheme is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 - WES for unemployed and inactive= €2,913,264.00 • 2.2 - WES for summer students= €1,500,000.00 |

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| | <p>The Work Exposure Scheme forms part of the Training for Employment project, which is co-financed by the European Social Fund 2021-2027 (60% EU funds and 40% national funds).</p> <p>Total: €4,413,264</p> |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The Work Exposure Scheme is intended to facilitate transition into employment by providing jobseekers with initial hands on training that will help individuals obtain the knowledge, skills and competences required to find and retain employment.</p> <p>In 2025 20 trainees started their placement. Out of these trainees, 3 chose an occupation related to ICT, while the Work Exposure Scheme for students attracted numerous students, with 15 students choosing an occupation related to ICT.</p> |

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| Measure 23 – MCAST HackSpace | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| MCAST HackSpace | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> Hackspace is a physical space where students can be upskilled and skilled in Cybersecurity and other ICT areas through sessions by industry.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is focused on empowering students to obtain practical and technical knowhow related to cybersecurity and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target in terms of a higher percentage of ICT specialists in the workforce.</p> |

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| | <i>Tentative timeline:</i> The programme is on an annual basis and thus has no associated timeline. |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 5,000 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | A space where students can learn through extra-curricular activities and engagement through dialogue with industry. It also walks the students through the process of identifying and investigating malware using real-world examples. This has an impact on increasing more specialised knowledge in Cybersecurity and priority areas. |

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| Measure 24 – Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The Pathfinder MDIA Digital Scholarship program has been specifically designed to support Artificial Intelligence and/or Digital Trust and/or Knowledge and Data Representation and Analysis and/or Technology for Sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and/ or Quantum Computing and Other Emerging Technologies in Postgraduate level.</p> <p>In 2025 the areas have been updated as follows: Artificial Intelligence and/or Digital Trust and/or Knowledge and Data Representation and Analysis and/or Technology for Sustainability and</p> |

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| | <p>Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and/or Other Emerging Technologies.</p> <p>In 2025 Ph.D. students can be provided up to 20,000 Euro fund which is a doubling from the maximum amount which could be awarded in 2023.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The program aims to bridge the skill gap and ensure that the labour market is supplied with competent individuals who can contribute to the growth and competitiveness of the country, thus playing a crucial role in shaping Malta's position in the digital era. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills and ICT specialists target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The programme is on an annual basis and thus has no associated timeline.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>2023 EUR 125,000 2024 EUR 130,000 2025 EUR 150,000</p> <p>(National Funds)</p> <p>Total: €405k</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>By providing financial assistance and resources, the program aims to ensure that these students have the necessary means to excel in their educational endeavors. According to the Maltese authorities, a total of 48 students have since benefitted from the scholarship (13 in 2021, 6 in 2022, 13 in 2023, and 16 in 2024).</p> <p>In 2025, a total of 35 applicants applied: 8 for the PhD program and 27 for the Master's program. All applicant interviews have been completed, and the evaluation process is currently underway.</p> |

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| Measure 25 – Formulation of the Demand and Supply Monitor report | |
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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Formulation of the Demand and Supply Monitor report | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The Demand and Supply Monitor Report is a study undertaken by the MDIA. It provides an accurate snapshot of the current demand by ICT entities (ICT companies, departments, and units) and the supply of ICT education and training in Malta. The report also gives a thorough analysis of many specific areas and looks at international trending technologies.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure looks at the demand-supply notions within the ICT sector and is expected to contribute directly to the KPI on digital skills and employment in the ICT sector.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The Monitor will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis throughout the 2025–2027 period.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 25,000 – EUR 40,000 (National funds) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>This project has commenced and is currently in progress.</p> <p>The objective of this measure is to commission an expert contractor to develop the Demand and Supply Monitor, a strategic report that will provide data-driven insights into the evolving needs of the digital sector in Malta, specifically the requirements of industry . Once established, the Monitor will be</p> |

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| | <p>reviewed and updated on an annual basis throughout the 2025–2027 period, ensuring it remains aligned with both national priorities and emerging labour market trends in digital skills.</p> <p>The first phase is being led by Tech.mt, who are preparing an internal report which will support decision making on the Demand and Supply Monitor.</p> |
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| Measure 26 – Get Qualified Scheme | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Get Qualified Scheme | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u></p> <p>This is an initiative that supports the personal development of individuals for the achievement of qualifications and certifications required by industry. The incentive is applicable to individuals following a course of studies leading to a certification, diploma, degree or post-graduate degree courses. Upon successful completion the student will benefit from a tax credit enabling them to recover part of the costs incurred. The new scheme of Get Qualified will aim to support the personal and professional development of individuals seeking to enhance their knowledge through certifications and qualifications by awarding part-financing as a tax credit on the costs incurred for tuition and examinations (eligible study costs), following the successful completion of eligible qualifications.</p> <p>Additional fiscal support will be granted to individuals who attain higher education qualifications and specialize in STEM subjects that are relevant to national economic objectives.</p> |

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| | <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> The scheme is intended to provide financial support to individuals who wish to further their studies and educational arm. Whilst the measure covers various courses, it includes courses that lead to certifications in the ICT field. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p><u><i>Tentative timeline:</i></u> The programme started in 2017 with a review of the programme conditions taking place in early Q4 2023. Its extension has been confirmed till 2030.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | No budget is associated with this measure as the assistance provided is in the form of tax credits. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>In 2022, 664 beneficiaries of this scheme have qualified in computing studies so far. The expected impact of extending the scheme is to have increased numbers of beneficiaries within the computing studies field.</p> <p>Between 2023 and 2024, Malta Enterprise has supported 1078 get qualified applications in computing courses with a total value of approved tax credits amounting to EUR1,8M. In 2025, the assistance given through the Get Qualified scheme rose to €10.320M and reached 2,460 beneficiaries.</p> <p>It is expected that 35,000 individuals will benefit from the revised scheme until 31st Dec, 2030.</p> |

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| Measure 27 – Skills Development Scheme | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes |

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| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Skills Development Scheme | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The scheme supports business undertakings to provide training to develop and update the skills and knowledge of their workforce and to train new employees for them to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to perform effectively. In 2023, the scheme has been expanded to a wider list of companies and are striving to make it easier to access and to manage. There is also more focus on enhancing communications skills, digital skills and assisting companies in fostering sustainability conciseness among their employees.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The scheme is focused on upskilling and reskilling the workforce. As the measure covers various business sectors which have different needs, the areas of application vary, but include many measures that are relevant for the KPI on digital skills. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills target.</p> <p>Tentative timeline: This measure is applicable until the end of 2025. The scheme is up for renewal in line with the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | This scheme has a budget of EUR 10M. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Through the supported training it is expected that assisted undertakings will upgrade the skills of employees, address skills shortages, facilitate re- |

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| | <p>skilling, tackle skill mismatches and work towards developing a knowledge-based workforce. Since 2020, Malta Enterprise has supported 110 approved training initiatives with a total of ca. EUR 5M in cash grants and tax credits to train their employees in digital skills. The expected impact is to have an increased number of businesses benefitting from this scheme in 2023.</p> <p>Between Yr 2023 & 2024 Malta Enterprise has supported 13 beneficiaries with a total assistance of EUR 543K in cash grants and tax credits. In 2025, €716,521 were awarded to 7 beneficiaries in cash grants and tax credits.</p> <p>Since 2020, Malta Enterprise has supported 80 beneficiaries / companies to train their workforce amounting to a total of ca EUR 5.4M.</p> |
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| Measure 28 – Investing in Skills Scheme | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Investing in Skills Scheme | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The Investing in Skills scheme seeks to promote the up-skilling of persons who are already active within the Maltese labour market. The aim of this scheme is to encourage local employers to up-skill their workforce by actively participating in training programmes and courses through financial incentives. The Scheme covers costs related to training, wages and air travel expenses.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The scheme is focused on upskilling the workforce. As the measure covers various business sectors which have different needs, the areas of application</p> |

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| | <p>vary, but include many measures that are relevant for the KPI on digital skills and employment. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills and ICT employment target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The first call for applications was published on 18/09/2023 and will close on 31/12/2026.</p> <p>In 2024, 46 grants related to ICT training were paid to employers. These grants had a value of €46,446.26 and were awarded to 26 unique SMEs and 14 unique large undertakings. 159 unique trainees attended a total of 325 training instances.</p> <p>Till end June 2025, 20 grants related to ICT training were paid to employers. These grants had a value of €14,814.66 and were awarded to 12 unique SMEs and 4 unique large undertakings. 58 unique trainees attended a total of 100 training instances.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>Total Budget till end of the 2027 programming period is EUR 10M (EU 6M and MT 4M). Budget for first call is EUR 4M (EU 2.4M and MT 1.6M).</p> <p>This scheme is co-financed by the European Social Fund+ (ESF+), the Maltese Government and the Employers and falls under Malta’s Operational Programme ‘Fostering the socioeconomic wellbeing of society through the creation of opportunities for all and investment in human resources and skills’ for the 2021-2027 Programming Period.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>Increased support towards active participants in the Maltese market in acquiring training to enhance adaptability and increase productivity.</p> |

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| Measure 29 – Youth Guarantee 3.0 | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes |

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| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Youth Guarantee | <p><u><i>Content of the measure:</i></u> The Youth Guarantee 3.0 targets young people aged 15 to 29 who are not in education, employment, or training (NEETs), with the aim of improving their employability and facilitating their transition into the labour market. The initiative focuses on activation measures and personalised support pathways, offering a comprehensive package that includes training, guidance, and work placements. A key emphasis is placed on modular training in emerging sectors such as green and digital, reflecting the shift towards a more sustainable and technologically driven economy. Through the Empower Youth initiative, participants receive tailored support that combines mentoring, training, and on-the-job experience. The Youth Guarantee 3.0 also addresses educational attainment by offering SEC Revision Classes for students who did not pass their Ordinary Level examinations and Remedial Classes to support MCAST students in passing their end-of-year assessments. In addition, the ALMA mobility scheme offers young people the opportunity to gain experience abroad through supported work placements in other EU Member States, helping them build both soft skills and confidence in a cross-cultural environment.</p> <p>Under the Empower YOUth component of the YG, selected participants who showed interest in the knowledge sector have started the Award in Essential IT skills in the Workplace training. This Award has a total of 15 hours and aims to build core computer skills for modern workplaces.</p> <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u></p> |

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| | <p>The initiative will aim to equip young people with relevant, future-oriented skills. This approach ensures that NEETs are not only activated through tailored support pathways, but are also trained in sectors where labour market demand is expected to increase, thereby enhancing their chances of sustainable employment.</p> <p>Tentative timeline: This scheme will be co-financed by the European Social Fund 2021-2027. The call for applications was published in September 2023 and will close in 2028. The scheme will be re-launched once the application is approved by the Managing Authority.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>The Youth Guarantee has a total budget of EUR 10,096,837.90 out of which 60% are EU funded while 40% are National funds. The Youth Guarantee has different components. The Empower YOUTH Phase, which includes the Award in Essential IT skills in the Workplace, has a budget of EUR 4,118,888.62. It should be noted however that this budget includes all training covered (across the 5 economic sectors) under the Empower YOUTH and it will cover soft skills and life skills, visits to employers and technical training.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>The expected impact of Youth Guarantee 3.0 is to reduce youth inactivity by equipping NEETs with the necessary skills and support to enter and remain in the labour market. The initiative is expected to enhance the digital competences and employability of participants in line with current and future labour market demands. The tailored support provided through activation pathways, educational assistance, and mobility opportunities aims to re-engage young people who are furthest from the labour market, contributing to lower NEET rates and increased participation in education, training, and sustainable employment.</p> |

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| Measure 30 – Jobsplus Training Courses | |
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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Jobsplus Training Courses | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> Jobsplus offers a vast array of training courses both online and inclass in accounting, business skills, care work, green skills, clerical work, health, safety and security, ICT, hospitality and customer services, language and numeracy, technical work, and trades amongst others. All of Jobsplus' courses are offered free of charge to all individuals residing in Malta and who meet the eligibility criteria.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The courses focus on employability. As the courses cover various business sectors which have different needs, the areas of application vary, but include many measures that are relevant for the KPI on digital skills and employment. Therefore, these courses are expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digital skills and employment target.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> Jobsplus runs its courses on an ongoing basis.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 435,000 (National Funds) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>Increased number of individuals with the necessary transversal skills to enter and retain gainful employment.</p> <p>In 2023, 401 unique individuals started a training related to digital skills or ICT. 164 of these</p> |

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| | <p>individuals followed more than one training programme.</p> <p>In 2024, 338 unique individuals started a training related to digital skills or ICT. 144 of these individuals followed more than one training programme.</p> <p>During the first half of 2025, 300 unique individuals started a training related to digital skills or ICT. 103 of these individuals followed more than one training programme.</p> |
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| Measure 31 – Training Pays Scheme | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Traning Pays Scheme | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The scheme aims to assist individuals, who have completed compulsory schooling up to 64 years of age and in the case of youths, the latter category must not be participating under other Jobsplus schemes. The scheme offers assistance in the form of a training grant to aid participants with costs relating to training for MQF Courses up to level 7. This grant will be awarded to the individual (trainee) after successful completion of their training.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The scheme is focused on upskilling. As the measure covers various business sectors which have different needs, the areas of application vary, but include many measures that are relevant for the KPI on digital skills and employment. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the</p> |

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| | <p>achievement of the digital skills and employment target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> This scheme which is co-financed by the European Social Fund is currently closed. The call for application was published in 2025 and will close in 2029. The scheme will be re-launched once the application is approved by the Managing Authority.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | No budget can be provided yet. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The development and/or improvement in digital skills through the participation in further off-the-job education and training. |

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| Measure 32 – Code.Sprint | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Code.Sprint | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> Annual national coding competition bringing together secondary, post-secondary, and open-category participants. Participants solve real-world programming challenges, meet IT professionals, and gain exposure to industry practices. The event promotes coding proficiency, problem-solving, and collaboration among participants.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The scheme focuses on the Basic Digital Skills KPI and the KPI to increase the number of ICT Specialists, with an attention to gender balancing.</p> |

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| | <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> This competition will be held annually in July.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | <p>€55k per year (national) Total: €220k</p> |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>Enhances students' and adults' programming and problem-solving skills while fostering links between education and industry. Supports the development of ICT specialists by providing real-world coding experience. Reached 110 participants in 2025, expected to reach 150 participants in 2026. Annual editions maintain momentum toward digital skills goals.</p> |

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| Measure 33 – Robo.Sprint | |
| New measure | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no</p> |
| Robo.Sprint | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> Robotics competition for students aged 10–16 that introduces the development of dedicated/embedded systems (robotics), programming, and problem-solving through hands-on projects. Students work collaboratively to design and program systems according to a specific theme.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The scheme focuses on the Basic Digital Skills KPI and the KPI to increase the number of ICT Specialists, with an attention to gender balancing.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u></p> |

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| | This competition is expected to become an annual event. |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | €7500 for 2025 edition (national) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Builds design, manufacturing, and programming skills among younger students, encouraging early interest in computing and engineering fields. Promotes inclusivity and hands-on learning. Expected to run annually and the 2025 1st edition reached 25 students across 11 teams. |

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| Measure 34 – Security Operations Centre Analyst Training Programme | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Security Operations Centre Analyst Training Programme | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> Provision of dedicated SOC training split in 3 stages whereby through an exam taken at the end of each stage, the candidates are shortlisted to follow the next stage based on merit.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure contributes to the target concerning ICT specialists (20 million ICT specialists reflecting 10% of the total workforce).</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The programme will start in Q4 2025.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – | €690,000; 0.5 FTE |

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| including human resources – allocated: | |
| Expected impact and related timing: | A pipeline of people interested in starting a career in cybersecurity, starting from Q4 2025. |

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| Measure 35 – AIM (Academy of Interactive Media) | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| AIM (Academy of Interactive Media) | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> AIM broadens access to Malta’s interactive entertainment sector by supporting individuals who are self-taught in game development, professionals transitioning from other industries, and existing employees seeking upskilling. The rationale behind AIM is to deliver guru-led masterclasses—industry-expert sessions that provide high-impact, practical, and advanced training aligned with global standards.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure contributes to the target concerning ICT specialists (20 million ICT specialists reflecting 10% of the total workforce).</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> Commenced in April 2025</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 400,000 (as a combined budget with measures 36 and 37) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | AIM contributes directly to upskilling talent and industry knowledge as an ongoing basis. |

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| Measure 36 – Unity | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Unity | <p><u><i>Content of the measure:</i></u> Unity is one of the game engines for developers globally. The renewed contract with Unity is an initiative that is a very good opportunity for students who are studying Game Development and interested to work in this industry.</p> <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> The measure contributes to the target concerning ICT specialists (20 million ICT specialists reflecting 10% of the total workforce).</p> <p><u><i>Tentative timeline:</i></u> GamingMalta has renewed the contract with Unity to ensure another 200 students (in addition to the 400 under the previous contract) will be trained by the end of 2026.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | €400,000 (as a combined budget with measures 35 and 37) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | This engine is the key to develop a game and when a studio developing his game with UNIIITY, looks to hire employees which have this certification. Under this contract we have designed GamingMalta's customised training platform and a status update of the progress. The students will have their personal access to this portal and can access their training on |

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| | demand freely. This ODT platform will also generate statistics. |
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| Measure 37 – Unreal Engine | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Unreal Engine | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> Epic Games through Unreal Engine are offering accreditation to institutions in Malta. Institutions will need to have accredited partners (instructors) by Epic Games in Unreal Engine for any institution to become a certified recognised university. Being an Unreal Academic Partner means that Epic will empower the institution, so that it can ensure that students are prepared for an evolving and highly competitive jobmarket with transferable skills that increase their potential in a globalised economy.</p> <p>Unreal engine is another engine which is used in various industries to develop games, movies, mechanical engineering, adverts, fashion and others.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure contributes to the target concerning ICT specialists (20 million ICT specialists reflecting 10% of the total workforce).</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> TBC</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – | EUR 400,000 (as a combined budget with measures 35 and 36) |

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| including human resources – allocated: | |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Malta will have skilled individuals who will be capable to work and develop with Unreal Engine which is another Engine along with Unity looked for by the industry. |

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| Measure 38 – Extension of the Higher Educational Qualifications | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Extension of the Higher Educational Qualifications | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> This program offers a tax exemption on employment income, claimed as a tax credit, for individuals who finish an eligible course of study in 2018 or later. The full credit is available for full-time studies commenced in 2017 or later; otherwise, it is reduced by 50%. A Masters qualification provides the credit for the year following completion, while a PhD grants it for two consecutive years; the credit may be claimed only once, though a PhD holder can claim a single additional year after previously claiming for a Masters.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure contributes to the target concerning ICT specialists (20 million ICT specialists reflecting 10% of the total workforce).</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> Its extension has been confirmed till 2027.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – | No budget is associated with this measure as the assistance provided is in the form of tax credits. |

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| including human resources – allocated: | |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The provision of financial assistance in the form of tax credits to individuals pursuing and completing higher education, which in turn supports personal development, enhances employability, and develops a highly skilled workforce. |

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| Measure 39 – Establishment of a Competence Centre | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Establishment of a Competence Centre to strengthen the cooperation between educational institutions to attract design operations to Malta | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> Establishment of a Competence Centre to support activities in the area of microelectronics and help companies, especially start-ups and SMEs, as well as academia, to develop and/or integrate semiconductors in their processes. The competence centre will also provide access to common European infrastructure, provide training and skills development, and can support their target audience in finding investors, amongst other activities. This is a spinoff derived from the European Chips Act.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> This measure is expected to contribute directly to the semiconductors target in terms of value generated by semiconductor activities in the Union.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The Competence Centre was officially launched in September 2025.</p> |

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| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>The Malta Competence centre will be led by Malta Enterprise together with a consortium of partners University of Malta, MDIA, MCAST and Silicon Catalyst. This is a co funding initiative (50% State - 50% EU). Budget is EUR8M. Current status: Ongoing discussions for the preparation of the grant agreement.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>The expected impact of the Malta Competence Centre shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the skilling and upskilling of the current and future work force requirements of the sector; • accelerated industry relevant research and innovation by bringing together the relevant stakeholders in industry, academia and research institutions; • the development of Maltese start-ups and SMEs as well as the attraction of foreign direct investment, in the form of fabless chip design companies and facilitate their access to European infrastructure. <p>The Competence Centre was officially launched in September 2025. The first cohort of up to 12 startups that are EU based that will be incubated by Silicon Catalyst will be launched in October 2025.</p> <p>The second cohort of EU based startups are to be incubated in 2026.</p> <p>UM and MCAST to develop and launch first training programmes related to the provision of training for the semiconductor industry.</p> |

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| <p>Measure 40 – Upgrading the private sector’s production lines to boost microchip production</p> | |
| <p>New measure</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> |

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| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Upgrading the private sector's production lines to boost microchip production. | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> As part of a joint initiative with France and Italy, Malta's application under the second call for Important Projects of Common European Interests (IPCEI) in the semiconductor sector was approved. Discussions on how private stakeholders will be benefitting from such a measure are ongoing.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is relevant for the KPI on semiconductors, measured as value generated, in terms of revenues, by semiconductor activities in the Union, in all stages of the value chain, with respect to the global market value.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> Timeline to be determined via function of the project and stakeholders involved.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | This is an ST Malta project as part of the IPCEI 2 to revamp the Kirkop factory leading to Industry 4.0. Total investment EUR 60 million. Project is ongoing. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The project will focus on specific niches within the semiconductor industry that build on the strengths of the local ecosystem. Main technical areas of specialisation will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabless startup incubation, • Heterogenous integration and advanced packaging, and • Skills development in chip design |

Measure 41 – Implementation of the PRISM project, co-funded through the Digital Europe Programme.

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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Implementation of the PRISM project, co-funded through the Digital Europe Programme | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The PRISM project aims to build a quantum-secured network in Malta, in the spirit of the EuroQCI initiative. The project outlines how a quantum communication infrastructure (QCI) can be implemented in Malta, including the location of QCI nodes, technologies that must be deployed and use cases.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is relevant for the KPI on quantum computing and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of operational quantum computers or quantum simulators, including accelerators of High-Performance Computing supercomputers, deployed and accessible to the user communities.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> July 2026.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | <p>EU (authorised): EUR 5.8 million This project brings together the local private sector (Mercury Cybersecurity Limited, Melita Limited, Umnai Limited, RSM Malta), the University of Malta, and the public sector (MITA and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Directorate).</p> |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The expected impact is the provision of quantum key distribution to end users in a convenient, secure and standards-compliant way and will see quantum key distribution systems that are self-contained, trustworthy, and ideally poised to be rolled out throughout the European and international markets.</p> |

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| Measure 42 – Implementation of the EQUO project, co-funded through the Digital Europe Programme | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Implementation of the EQUO project, co-funded through the Digital Europe Programme | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> This measure will design, develop, and test Quantum key distribution systems with high technology readiness level (TRL) using cutting-edge European technology ready for integration into telecommunication networks. EQUO will demonstrate the Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) solutions in use cases, ensuring interoperability between quantum and traditional cybersecurity systems. It will also identify current and future use-cases and investigate socio-economic trends in quantum communications.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is relevant for the KPI on quantum computing and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of operational quantum computers or quantum simulators, including accelerators of High-Performance Computing supercomputers, deployed and accessible to the user communities.</p> <p>Tentative timeline: End of year 2025.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EU (allocated): EUR 225,000 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Development of quantum components stable and performant enough to allow efficient integration in a broader QKD system. |

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| Measure 43 – Implementation of the HYPERSPACE project, funded through Horizon Europe. | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Implementation of the HYPERSPACE project, funded through Horizon Europe. | <p><u><i>Content of the measure:</i></u> HyperSpace aims to extend the hitherto untapped potential of high-dimensionally entangled photons to long-distance free-space communications. Encoding multiple qubits on individual photons via d-level quantum properties – qudits – increases channel capacity and yields benefits for the implementation of advanced quantum information processing (QIP), such as improving resilience with respect to noise and eavesdropping in quantum key distribution (QKD). To facilitate deployment on scalable small satellites, the team seeks not only to develop new protocols based on quantum hyperentanglement, but also to transfer these protocols into scalable photonic integration platforms.</p> <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> The measure is relevant for the KPI on quantum computing and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of operational quantum computers or quantum simulators, including accelerators of High-Performance Computing supercomputers, deployed and accessible to the user communities.</p> <p><u><i>Tentative timeline:</i></u> End of year 2025.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, | EU (allocated): EUR 400,000 |

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| other resources - including human resources - allocated: | |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Development of components and their demonstration for satellite quantum communication. |

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| Measure 44 – Implementation of the QUANGO project, co-funded through Horizon 2020. | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Implementation of the QUANGO project, funded through Horizon 2020. | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The EU-funded project QUANGO aims at designing and prototyping the key elements of a satellite mission that targets the delivery of both internet of things (IoT) and QKD services. QUANGO will provide a new paradigm to share the satellite infrastructure required for secure communication based on QKD and for 5G communication. It will do this by designing a constellation of low-earth orbit CubeSat and by developing the satellite sub-system payloads, along with the corresponding ground stations.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is relevant for the KPI on quantum computing and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of operational quantum computers or quantum simulators, including accelerators of High-Performance Computing supercomputers, deployed and accessible to the user communities.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> End of year 2023.</p> |

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| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EU (allocated): EUR 200,000 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | QUANGO will help to develop new technology that will make it possible to build ultra-secure communication systems, combining quantum communications with 5G and satellite systems. |

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| Measure 45 – Implementation of the QUDICE project, funded through Horizon Europe. | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Implementation of the QUDICE project, funded through Horizon Europe. | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> QUDICE is aimed at the creation and development of components and subsystems for space-based QKD satellite communication network. The project also seeks to create the testbeds to evaluate the components of quantum satellite communications technology as well as the tools required to simulate and monitor space quantum information networks.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is relevant for the KPI on quantum computing and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of operational quantum computers or quantum simulators, including accelerators of High-Performance Computing supercomputers, deployed and accessible to the user communities.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> End of year 2025.</p> |

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| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EU (allocated): EUR 190,000 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The development of the components and subsystems for quantum communication and optical systems for space-based QKD enabling the realization of a European network of satellites with quantum key distribution as the main service. |

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| Measure 46 – Implementation of the QSNP project, funded through Horizon Europe. | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Implementation of the QSNP project, funded through Horizon Europe. | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> QSNP is part of a Framework Project Agreement and funded under the HORIZON-CL4-2022-QUANTUM-04-SGA topic of Horizon Europe. The project aims to develop and deploy quantum cryptography technology that will permit the ultra-secure transmission of information through the network.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is relevant for the KPI on quantum computing and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of operational quantum computers or quantum simulators, including accelerators of High-Performance Computing supercomputers, deployed and accessible to the user communities.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> End of year 2025.</p> |

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| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EU (allocated): EUR 360,000 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of advanced quantum technology for quantum secure communication networks against the ever-increasing power of computers and the sophistication of algorithms, even for quantum computers. • The integration of quantum cryptography technology not only at the component, system and network levels, but also into existing classical telecommunication systems and post-quantum protocols, assuring an additional layer of ultra-secure communications in this hybrid classical-quantum network. • The delivery of critical European technology for government infrastructures such as the European Quantum Communications Infrastructure (EuroQCI). |

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| Measure 47 – Containment of a high performance computer for test use by Maltese SMEs and start-ups | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Containment of a high performance computer for test use by Maltese SMEs and start-ups. | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The Malta Digital Innovation Hub will focus on making high performance computing, amongst other technologies, accessible to SME's and public sector organisations, in tandem to the participation in the network of EDIHs in 2022. This enrolment</p> |

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| | <p>has since then facilitated the local hub to have its own high-performance computer together with the technical expertise required to test such technology before making it available to the wider general public.</p> <p><i><u>Link to the target:</u></i> The measure is relevant for the KPI on quantum computing and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of operational quantum computers or quantum simulators, including accelerators of High-Performance Computing supercomputers, deployed and accessible to the user communities.</p> <p><i><u>Tentative timeline:</u></i> 2024 - 2030.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>EUR 1,270,000 (National Funds : EUR 635, 000 EU Funds: EUR 635,000)</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>The MDIA’s HPC investment will be a game-changer for Malta’s SMEs, providing them with advanced computational resources typically out of reach for smaller enterprises. By enabling data processing and AI-driven innovation, the HPC will help SMEs enhance their products, optimize operations, and expand into new markets, significantly boosting their competitiveness. Additionally, academic institutions, students, public sector entities, and private companies across industries will benefit from this resource, fostering a collaborative ecosystem that supports data-driven growth and positions Malta as a digital leader. Ultimately, this investment will unlock new scientific, economic, and societal value, driven primarily by empowered SMEs.</p> |

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| Measure 48 – SME Digitalisation Scheme | |
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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| SME Digitalisation Scheme | <p><u><i>Content of the measure:</i></u> This scheme seeks to support digitalisation investment initiatives by SMEs in several economic sectors, as part of their digitalisation endeavours and when seeking to intensify the digitalisation of operations. This scheme is funded through the Recovery and Resilience Plan and this particular scheme will part-finance up to 50% of the cost for investments in Malta and 60% of the cost for investments in Gozo (up to a maximum grant of €50,000 per undertaking), via a rolling call.</p> <p>Specifically, the incentive assists SMEs through non-repayable Grants to part-finance investment to digitalise their operations, and hence improve their resilience, efficiency, productivity and customer experience by addressing new digital capabilities and digitalised processes such as product and process design and engineering, end-to-end procurement, supply chain/distribution and after sales.</p> <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> The measure is focused on supporting digitalisation investment initiatives by SMEs across all business sectors. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the uptake of cloud computing and other related technologies given the eligible expenditure detailed below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-Commerce Website and • Digital Solutions such as, Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) and Custom Software, Hardware (such as Laptops, Docking Station, Port Replicator, Monitors, Tablets), |

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| | <p>Analytical Tools (including necessary hardware and software), Cyber Security systems, Cloud computing, Routers, switches and WIFI related equipment, Other hardware and software (identified in the application and not already identified above, which the division may consider eligible under this scheme) and Training costs on the use of the specific item acquired.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The scheme was first launched in June 2022 is expected to run till 2026.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | The allocated budget for the three schemes identified under Measures 48, 49 and 50 is EUR 15M. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The expected impact of Measures 48, 49 and 50 together is to support at least 360 Maltese businesses.</p> <p>By the end of 2025, 122 individuals/enterprises were supported through the SME Digitalisation Grant Scheme.</p> |

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| Measure 49 – Digital Intensification Scheme | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digital Intensification Scheme | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> This Grant Scheme supports digitalisation investment initiatives by eligible enterprises, in eligible sectors, as part of their digitalisation endeavours and when seeking to intensify the</p> |

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| | <p>digitalisation of operations. The investment supports enterprises, with a specific focus to those in the manufacturing and tourism industries, through investments in digital technologies and related processes in the enterprise, in particular hardware, software and other digital solutions to improve their efficiency, productivity and customer experience. This scheme is funded through the Recovery and Resilience Plan and this particular scheme may part-finance between 10% and 35% of the eligible costs, depending on the region in which the investment shall be effected and the size of the applicant enterprise (up to a maximum grant of €200,000 per undertaking).</p> <p><i><u>Link to the target:</u></i> The measure is focused on investment in new digital technologies that will encourage the growth of the business as the incentive seeks to assist eligible enterprises through non-repayable Grants to part-finance initial investment for SMEs, or an initial investment in favour of a new economic activity in the case of large enterprises.</p> <p><i><u>Tentative timeline:</u></i> The scheme was first launched in June 2022 is expected to run till 2026.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>The allocated budget for the three schemes identified under Measures 48, 49 and 50 is EUR 15M.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>The expected impact of Measures 48, 49 and 50 together is to support at least 360 Maltese businesses.</p> |

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| Measure 50 – Digitalise your Microbusiness Scheme |
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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digitalise your Microbusiness Scheme | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> This incentive seeks to assist Micro Enterprises through non-repayable Grants to part-finance investment to digitalise their operations, and hence improve their resilience, efficiency, productivity and customer experience. This scheme is funded through the Recovery and Resilience Fund and part-finances 50% of the eligible costs with a maximum funding amount of €10,000 per digitalisation investment in digital technologies per operation. Investments in Gozo will benefit from an additional 10% aid intensity.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is focused on investment in new digital technologies that will encourage the growth of the business as the incentive seeks to assist eligible enterprises through non-repayable Grants to part-finance initial investment for SMEs, or an initial investment in favour of a new economic activity in the case of large enterprises.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The scheme was first launched in June 2022 is expected to run till 2026.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | The allocated budget for the three schemes identified under Measures 48, 49 and 50 is EUR 15M. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The expected impact of measures 48, 49 and 50 together is to support at least 360 Maltese businesses. |

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| | By end of 2025, 93 individuals/enterprises were supported through the Digitalise your Microbusiness Grant Scheme. |
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| Measure 51 – Technology sandbox | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Technology sandbox | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The MDIA Technology Sandbox is intended to guide solution owners throughout a residency of at most four years, as they align their solution with established Control Objectives based on international standards, in a phased and gradual approach. This alignment to known control objectives can help the applicant align to established expectations in technology related to data and handling thereof.</p> <p>The Technology sandbox has been recently updated to include additional guidance to Decentralised Autonomous Organisations.</p> <p>Link to the target: The measure is directly focused on assisting business have access to and the utilisation of the reporting elements of Big Data solutions in direct relation to the KPI on Big Data.</p> <p>Tentative timeline: The programme started in 2021 and review was carried out in 2022. Programme is ongoing.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – | 2023: EUR 50,000 2024: EUR 50,000 2025: EUR 50,000 1 full time employee and associated costs |

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| including human resources - allocated: | Total: EUR 150,000 (National Funds) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Provision of technological assurances for various stakeholders, including users and investors. The sandbox reduces the risk failure and provides certainty in the functional correctness and dependability of such technologies and the underlying operational processes. The number of participants of the MDIA Technology Sandbox of 2025 was 6. |

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| Measure 52 – Malta Digital Innovation Hub | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Malta Digital Innovation Hub | <u><i>Content of the measure:</i></u> In line with the call for proposals for the EDIHs, the DiHubMT aims at providing the complete set of services of an EDIH on an open, transparent and non-discriminatory basis and targeted towards SMEs, small midcaps and public sector organisations. The main services that will be offered at the DiHubMT are digital entrepreneurship support services, technical ‘Test before Invest’ support services, digital skills and training development, innovation ecosystems and networking, and digital innovation policy and strategy. <u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> This is directly linked to multiple KPIs listed in the AI Strategy and the adoption of Artificial Intelligence adoption in businesses as digital entrepreneurship support services and technical |

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| | <p>‘Test before Invest’ support services will be offered via the setting up of a High-Tech Workspace which will feature high-end technologies, namely AI.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> 2024</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>Co-Funded by the EU: EUR 5.3M National Funds:2.65M</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>The implementation of the DiHubMT initiative and its comprehensive range of services aligned with the EDIH model is projected to yield significant impact in multiple dimensions, directly contributing to the AI Strategy's KPIs and fostering the adoption of Artificial Intelligence within businesses. The envisaged impact includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced SME and Midcap Competitiveness: By extending open and transparent access to digital entrepreneurship support services and technical 'Test before Invest' assistance, SMEs and small midcaps are expected to experience improved competitiveness. This support will empower them to explore and integrate AI technologies effectively, thus augmenting their innovative capacities and market presence. There are currently 54 startups/SMEs using the premises at DiHubMT. • Skill Upgradation and Workforce Empowerment: The focus on digital skills and training development is set to empower the workforce with the necessary expertise to harness AI and emerging technologies. As a result, employees and professionals across various sectors will be equipped with the skills needed to thrive in the digital age, fostering a more adaptable and knowledgeable workforce. Since November 2024, 510 individuals have participated in upskilling courses organised by DiHubMT. |

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| | <p>Moreover, the Digital Maturity Assessment tool was developed to help businesses assess their digital maturity across various key domains, including technology, processes, culture, and strategy. Currently, 217 startups/SMEs have completed the DMA, highlighting areas that require improvement. For example, the tool examines how well a business integrates digital technology into its operations, the level of digital skills within the workforce, and the strategic alignment of digital initiatives with overall business goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulated Innovation Ecosystems: The establishment of innovation ecosystems and networking opportunities within the framework of DiHubMT is likely to stimulate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among diverse stakeholders. This cross-pollination of ideas is expected to trigger innovative breakthroughs, leading to the development and implementation of novel AI-driven solutions. • Accelerated AI Adoption: The availability of a High-Tech Workspace featuring advanced technologies, particularly AI, is projected to expedite the adoption of AI solutions within businesses. This acceleration of AI integration can lead to improved operational efficiency, enhanced decision-making processes, and the development of AI-enabled products and services. • Informed Policy Formulation: The DiHubMT's focus on digital innovation policy and strategy will contribute to the formulation of informed policies and strategies in the realm of digital transformation and AI adoption. This, in turn, can create an enabling environment for businesses and institutions to leverage AI effectively while adhering to best practices and regulatory frameworks. • Diverse Business Opportunities: The open and non-discriminatory nature of DiHubMT's services |
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| | <p>ensures that a wide range of SMEs, small midcaps, and public sector organizations can benefit. This inclusivity is anticipated to create diverse business opportunities, fostering economic growth and resilience across various sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term Sustainability: The tentative timeline of 2023 to 2026 aligns with the mid-term to long-term objectives, ensuring sustained and continuous impact over the years. The establishment of a lasting framework for AI support and services is expected to contribute to the long-term sustainability of AI-driven innovation and growth. Overall, the DiHubMT initiative, with its targeted services, technological infrastructure, and strategic alignment, is poised to catalyze a transformative impact on SMEs, small midcaps, and public sector organizations, driving AI adoption, innovation, and economic advancement. |
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| Measure 53 – MDIA Applied Research Grant | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| MDIA Applied Research Grant | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The measure supports research and capacity-building efforts related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial Intelligence, Digital Trust; and/or • Knowledge, Data Representation and Analysis; and/or • Technology for Sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG); and/ or • Quantum Computing; and |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Emerging Technologies in Malta. <p><u>Link to the target:</u> This is directly linked to the KPI on Artificial Intelligence adoption in businesses as the grant aims to encourage increased adoption of AI technologies by the public and private sectors.</p> <p>Tentative timeline: Grant opened in 2022 to be continued year on year.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | 2023 EUR 185,000 2024 EUR 120,000 (National Funds) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity for AI-related research in Malta; • Increased investment in AI-related R&D activities; • Increased adoption of AI technologies by the public and private sectors; • Increased collaboration between academia and commercial entities <p>In 2023, MARG had 5 beneficiaries, and 4 in 2024.</p> |

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| Measure 54 – National AI Strategy | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| National AI Strategy | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> “Strategy and Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Malta 2030” is the National AI Strategy which was</p> |

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| | <p>developed by the Maltese Government to focus on investment, resources and attention in ways that maximise the benefits for Malta and its contributions to the global economy. It aims to give due focus to the needs of various different groups of stakeholders as the country looks forward to achieving its vision. This strategy is built on three strategic pillars which focus on boosting investment, innovation and adoption.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> This is directly linked to the KPI on AI adoption in businesses as the strategy aims to encourage increased adoption of AI technologies by the public and private sectors.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> A second version of this strategy for implementation will be launched in 2025.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 4M (National funds) for six pilot projects which are set to conclude in 2025, after which their viability for broader implementation will be evaluated. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The National AI Strategy aims to map the path for Malta to gain a strategic competitive advantage in the global economy as a leader in the AI field with the use of a holistic approach. |

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| Measure 55 – SME Guarantee Scheme (SGS) | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| SME Guarantee Scheme (SGS) | <u>Content of the measure:</u> |

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| | <p>The SME Guarantee Scheme (SGS) is a Malta Development Bank's (MDB) uncapped portfolio guarantee scheme. The SGS aims at enhancing SME access to bank credit for new investment as well as other purposes; including for working capital related to new investment and business transfers. Facilities of €10,000 up to €1,000,000.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u></p> <p>As the measure covers access to finance for various business sectors which have different needs, the areas of investment vary, but include many that are relevant for the target of the digitalisation of businesses. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digitalisation of businesses target.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u></p> <p>The Grant will run till end of 2027.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>The targeted SGS global loan portfolio is €80 million.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>Enhanced access to bank financing for SMEs that, in spite of having viable projects, are unable to access the required bank finance for various reasons. The scheme addresses the following barriers to lending: (i) inadequate collateral; (ii) lack of credit history; and (iii) novel business market, sector or technology that is perceived by finance providers as higher risk under current credit risk evaluation practices.</p> |

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| <p>Measure 56 – Guaranteed Co-Lending Scheme (GCLS)</p> | |
| <p>New measure</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no</p> |

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| <p>Guaranteed Co-Lending Scheme (GCLS)</p> | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The GCLS is a Malta Development Bank’s (MDB) risk-sharing facility which offers favourable financing terms for bankable projects with a special focus on SMEs particularly those involving innovation and digitalisation. This includes benefits of lower interest rates, longer loan terms, enhanced access to increased finance and lower collateral requirements for SMEs. The GCLS caters for SMEs with larger loan requirements that exceed the maximum of €1,000,000 under the SGS.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> As the measure covers access to finance for various business sectors which have different needs, the areas of investment vary, but include many that are relevant for the target of the digitalisation of businesses. Therefore, this measure is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digitalisation of businesses target.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The Grant will run till end of 2027.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>The targeted GCLS global loan portfolio is €100 million of which €50 million originates by MDB and €50 million by the participating Banks. MDB also provides an additional guarantee of €30 million on the €50 million loans by the participating Banks.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>Increased capital for the strengthening and/or stabilisation of digital activities of SMEs, and the realisation of innovative and technological projects and developments.</p> <p>Since 2023, loans related to the digital totalled €12,100,000.</p> |

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| Measure 57 – Digitalise your Business Scheme | |
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| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digitalise your Business Scheme | <p><u><i>Content of the measure:</i></u> This incentive seeks to assist SMEs and Large Enterprises through non-repayable Grants to part-finance investment to digitalise their operations, and hence improve their resilience, efficiency, productivity and customer experience by addressing new digital capabilities and digitalised processes such as product and process design and engineering, end-to-end procurement, supply chain/distribution and after sales. This scheme is funded through the Recovery and Resilience Fund and part finances 60% of the eligible cost with the maximum grant value is set at €120,000 for eligible actions, with an additional 7% flat rate to finance any indirect costs related to the investment (for a maximum of €128,400). Investments in Gozo will benefit from an additional 10% aid intensity.</p> <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> This Grant Scheme seeks to support digitalisation investment initiatives by SMEs and Large Enterprises, in several economic sectors, in their digitalisation endeavours and to intensify the digitalisation of operations. Therefore, the eligible expenditure is detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-Commerce Website • Digital Solutions such as – Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) and Custom Software, Hardware (such as Laptops, Docking Station, Port Replicator, Monitors, Tablets), Analytical Tools (including necessary hardware and software), Cyber Security systems, Cloud computing, Routers, switches and WIFI related |

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| | <p>equipment, Other hardware and software (identified in the application and not already identified above, which the division may consider eligible under this scheme) and installation including any training costs on the use of the specific item acquired under points above and included in the purchase price of the item.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The Grant will run till end of 2026.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | |
| Expected impact and related timing: | By end of 2025, 184 individuals/enterprises were supported through the Digitalise your Business Grant Scheme. |

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| Measure 58 – Digitalise your Large Business | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digitalise your Large Business | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> This incentive seeks to assist Large Enterprises through non-repayable Grants to part-finance investment to digitalise their operations, and hence improve their resilience, efficiency, productivity and customer experience by addressing new digital capabilities and digitalised processes such as product and process design and engineering, end-to-end procurement, supply chain/distribution and after sales. This scheme is funded through the Recovery and Resilience Fund and part finances</p> |

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| | <p>50% of the eligible cost with the maximum grant value is set at €120,000 for eligible actions, with an additional 7% flat rate to finance any indirect costs related to the investment (for a maximum of €128,400). Investments in Gozo will benefit from an additional 10% aid intensity.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> This Grant Scheme seeks to support digitalisation investment initiatives by SMEs and Large Enterprises, in several economic sectors, in their digitalisation endeavours and to intensify the digitalisation of operations. Therefore, the eligible expenditure is detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-Commerce Website • Digital Solutions such as – Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) and Custom Software, Hardware (such as Laptops, Docking Station, Port Replicator, Monitors, Tablets), Analytical Tools (including necessary hardware and software), Cyber Security systems, Cloud computing, Routers, switches and WIFI related equipment, Other hardware and software (identified in the application and not already identified above, which the division may consider eligible under this scheme) and installation including any training costs on the use of the specific item acquired under points above and included in the purchase price of the item. <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The Grant will run till end of 2026.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>1M</p> |

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| Expected impact and related timing: | By end of 2025, 8 individuals/enterprises were supported through the Digitalise your Large Business Grant Scheme. |
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| Measure 59 – Digitalise your SME | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digitalise your SME | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i></p> <p>This incentive seeks to assist SMEs through non-repayable Grants to part-finance investment to digitalise their operations, and hence improve their resilience, efficiency, productivity and customer experience by addressing new digital capabilities and digitalised processes such as product and process design and engineering, end-to-end procurement, supply chain/distribution and after sales. This scheme is funded through the ERDF and part finances 50% of the eligible cost with the maximum grant value set at €128,400 including 7% flat rate to finance any indirect costs related to the investment. Investments in Gozo will benefit from an additional 10% aid intensity. Moreover, applications under Start-up will benefit from an additional 10% aid intensity.</p> <p>Furthermore, Applications which include Cyber Security, Internet of Things (IOT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data analysis, Cloud Computing or Quantum Technology shall have their aid intensity for those specific items topped up by 10% in line with Malta's Digital Decade Strategic Roadmap 2023 – 2030 targets. This budget is being provided by the Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA). This top-up will be provided subject to budget availability.</p> |

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| | <p>Applications that meet not more than 6 of the 12 digital intensity technologies and which will achieve at least 7 or more of the 12 digital intensity technologies following the completion of the project will have their aid intensity topped up by 5%.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> This Grant Scheme seeks to support digitalisation investment initiatives by Start-ups and SMEs, in several economic sectors, in their digitalisation endeavours and to intensify the digitalisation of operations. Digitalisation is crucial as it can help provide better services and products of higher quality, as well as improve the management of resources to increase efficiency and reach new markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Solutions such as, Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) and Custom Software, Hardware (such as Laptops, Docking Station, Port Replicator, Monitors, Tablets), Analytical Tools (including necessary hardware and software), Cyber Security systems, Cloud computing, Routers, switches and WIFI related equipment, Other hardware and software (identified in the application and not already identified above, which the division may consider eligible under this scheme) and installation including any training costs on the use of the specific item acquired under points above and included in the purchase price of the item. <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The Grant will run till end of 2029.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>5M (EU Funded)</p> |

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| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The grant was launched in 2025 and applications will be accepted till 2029 or until the fund has been utilised.</p> <p>By end of 2025, 19 individuals/enterprises were supported through this grant.</p> |
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| Measure 60 – SME Enhance (RSO 1.2) | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| SME Enhance (RSO 1.2) | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> This incentive shall seek to support undertakings through non-repayable grants to part-finance investment in relation to the activities outlined and aimed at potentially improving the productivity of the enterprise.</p> <p>The scheme has a larger budget since it mainly focuses on non digital items. Those applications which apply for digital and non-digital items are awarded the digital part out of the 1m budget.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> This Grant Scheme shall seek to support Start-ups and SMEs in undertaking productive investments in Tangible and Intangible assets related to the expansion, diversification, innovation of the operations, as well as on initial investments.</p> <p>IT equipment (both tangible and intangible) is considered as one of the eligible items.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The Grant will run till end of 2029.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, | €1 million (EU Funded) |

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| other resources – including human resources – allocated: | |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The grant was launched in 2025 and applications will be accepted till 2029 or until the fund has been utilised.</p> <p>By end of 2025, 10 individuals/enterprises were supported through this grant.</p> |

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| Measure 61 – Digital Technologies Programme | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Digital Technologies Programme | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The Digital Technologies Programme is designed to support research that will drive us towards a safer and more trustworthy development, adoption and use of digital technologies.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is linked to the KPIs concerning AI, Cloud and Big Data.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The programme was launched in 2024 and is expected to run till 2025.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | €0.7 million allocated budget per year (national) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research supporting societal wellbeing and sustainability through Digital Innovation; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research supporting the implementation of the EU Digital Decade targets for 2030; • Research on solutions/ systems which implement the AI OECD principles, Malta’s AI Strategy and Vision and UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence; • Research that supports compliance of the EU AI Act, EU Cyber Security Act, EU Cyber Resilience Act, EU Data Governance Act, EU Data Act, and The European Digital Identity Regulation (eIDAS 2); • Research on toolsets to enable digital processing and analysis of Maltese artefacts, in written and, or spoken form, including spellchecking and transcription support or Research and development in the creation and use of language models with a focus on the Maltese language. <p>In 2024 there were a total of 24 applications, 10 of which approved. In 2025, the number of applications was 23, 9 of which were approved.</p> |
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| Measure 62 – Establishment of AI Factory Antenna | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Establishment of AI Factory Antenna | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> CALYPSO - the Computational AI Factory Link Yielding Performance, Services, and Outreach is Malta's official AI Factory Antenna within the EuroHPC network. This measure will include the AI Factory Antenna in Malta, which will be an intergral part for the development and strengthening of AI. A memorandum of understanding will be formalised</p> |

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| | <p>with Pharos to define the services that will be accessible to the Maltese ecosystem.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is linked to the KPIs concerning AI, Cloud and Big Data.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> 2026 - 2027</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 10,000,000 (co-funded by the EU) |
| Expected impact and related timing: | This measure is a significant step in Malta's digital strategy to provide local businesses, researchers, and public entities with access to European supercomputing power, training, and AI resources for innovation in sectors like health, transport, and finance. Led by the Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA) and formally linked to the PHAROS AI Factory in Greece, CALYPSO will operate both as an extension of PHAROS and as a national innovation center. |

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| Measure 63 – eBiznify courses | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| eBiznify courses. | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The aim of eBiznify courses is to enable individuals and businesses to acquire the skills necessary to apply eCommerce in business and boost their competence in the provision of eCommerce-related services. The eBiznify eCommerce training</p> |

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| | <p>programmes are delivered through a purposes designed online training platform that allows participants to study in their own time, from the comfort of their own home, making it easier for them to manage a busy schedule.</p> <p><i><u>Link to the target:</u></i> The measure is linked to the KPI concerning SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity.</p> <p><i><u>Tentative timeline:</u></i> The MCA started the eBiznify programme in 2018. In mid-2020, the eSkills Malta Foundation joined the MCA and the programme is planned to run till early 2024.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>eBiznify started as an ESF funded programme in 2018. Since 2020, the MCA, in collaboration with the eSkills Malta Foundation provided the required funding to maintain the programme running for a further three years. The programme is scheduled to be concluded by early 2024.</p> <p>EUR 160k - EU funds EUR 40k - national funds Total EUR 200k</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>Increase of eCommerce, digital and other skills in Malta, thus contributing to digital transformation of industry.</p> <p>This project was successfully concluded. The eBiznify courses aimed to support individuals and businesses in developing practical digital and eCommerce skills, contributing to the broader national effort to strengthen digital capabilities within the SME sector.</p> |

Measure 64 – **Business re-engineering and transformation scheme**

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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Business re engineering and transformation scheme | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The scope of the scheme is to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to realign their business activity, restructure their employees, product and / or service portfolio, optimise the use of technology and embrace green technology and practices. SME's with a vision to develop can seek support from external advisors to assist them in carrying out significant changes that will enable them to accelerate development and improve market access. The aid is awarded in the form of a cash grant covering 50% of the costs incurred up to a maximum grant of €5,000 per advisory service per undertaking. Beneficiaries may only be supported through this measure once in any 18-month period.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is linked to the target concerning SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity.</p> <p>Tentative timeline: This measure expired in December 2023. Its eligibility criteria have now been incorporated into the new Business Development Scheme.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | This scheme had an overall budget of EUR 2.5M. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The scheme will assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access advisory services to re-engineer and transform their business in line with their strategy. |

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| | Between 2020 & 2023, 16 beneficiaries were assisted for the total of €72,165. |
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| Measure 65 – Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant provides business funding to support the undertaking of investments that lead to more sustainable and digitalised processes leading to the enhancement of competitiveness of the enterprises through the optimisation of the use of resources in their activities. The maximum grant that can be awarded to support an eligible investment shall cover 50% of the eligible expenditure up to a maximum grant of €100,000 per project. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the level of funding will be determined following an assessment of the proposed investment and implementation plan. Furthermore, a tax Credit of up to €40,000 per project may be awarded as an additional 10% (to 60%) and 20% (to 70%) if the project meets other key criteria as outlined in the guidelines.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is linked to the target concerning SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity, because it incentivises digital technologies adoption through the eligibility expenditure detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Efficiency – Reducing water use per unit of production Sustainable Digitalisation – |

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| | <p>Adopting digital solutions to enhance environmental performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficiency – Reducing energy use per unit of production • Sustainable Materials - Cost Reducing impact of product on global environment • Waste Minimisation - Reducing materials use per unit of production <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> This measure is applicable until the end of 2024.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | This scheme has an overall budget of EUR 6M. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The scheme provides funding opportunity to support the undertaking of investments that lead to more sustainable processes which will enable the beneficiary to grow and become more competitive.</p> <p>In 2023 and 2024, Malta Enterprise assisted 25 beneficiaries with a total value of EUR1.3M.</p> |

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| Measure 66 – Mind the Gap project | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Mind the Gap project | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> Mind the Gap Project is composed of two schemes, a Cybersecurity Self-Assessment owned and managed by the MDIA, and the Cybersecurity Improvement Scheme owned and managed by Tech.mt in promotional collaboration with the MCA. The project's primary objective is to provide an</p> |

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| | <p>easily accessible opportunity for local e-commerce service providers to gain insight into their cybersecurity maturity levels and provide financial assistance in improving their relevant cybersecurity standing.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> This is directly linked to the target concerning SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The Cybersecurity Improvement scheme is open until 31st December 2023 / until all €100,000 funding is claimed, whichever comes first.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | The total budget allocated is EUR 100,000. Up to €10,000 per local e-commerce service provider may be granted to cover part of the costs related to the improvement of cybersecurity maturity of their respective e-commerce service. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>Ten or more local e-commerce service providers gaining insight into their cybersecurity maturity levels and receiving financial assistance in improving their relevant cybersecurity standing.</p> <p>The project concluded successfully end December 2023 with a total Budget of €123,674.38 supporting 13 SMEs</p> |

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| Measure 67 – Extension and strenghtening of the Micro Invest Scheme | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Extension and strenghtening of the Micro Invest Scheme | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The main objective of the Micro Invest scheme is to encourage investment by undertakings, including start-ups, family businesses, social enterprises and</p> |

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| | <p>self-employed, within their business in order to expand, innovate and develop operations. The Micro Invest scheme has been further strengthened by including investment in digital solutions, while increasing tax credits to €65,000 up to a maximum of 65% of the eligible expense. A two-year tax reduction is provided for investment related to Artificial Intelligence, digitalisation, investment promoting modernisation, automation and cybersecurity, for businesses and industries.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> This is directly linked to the target concerning SMEs with at least a basic level of digital intensity.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> 2026 - 2030</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | No budget is associated with this measure as the assistance provided is in the form of tax credits. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Assistance will be awarded in the form of a tax credit. By 2030, 35,000 beneficiaries {7,000 businesses a year} are expected to benefit from this measure. |

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| Measure 68 – Start Up Finance scheme | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Start Up Finance scheme | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> This measure supports small start-up undertakings that demonstrate a viable business concept and that exhibit commitment to expand and further develop</p> |

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| | <p>their economic activity. Malta Enterprise may provide support up to €400,000 which may be increased to a maximum of €800,000, if the Start-up meets the criteria of an Innovative Enterprise. The support is awarded as a repayable advance.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is relevant for the KPI on unicorns and is expected to contribute directly to the digital transformation of businesses by facilitating the growth of innovative scale-ups and improving their access to finance.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> This measure is applicable until the end of 2026.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>EUR 63M</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>This measure is intended to continue supporting small start-up undertakings that demonstrate a viable business concept and exhibit commitment to expand and further develop their economic activity. During the period 2020 to 2022, more than 60 projects were approved under the Start-Up Finance Scheme. Between 2023 and 2024, Malta Enterprise has supported 17 startups with a total aid value of EUR8.9M. For the period Jan to Aug 2025 2 startups were approved under this measure.</p> |

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| <p>Measure 69 – Business Start 2021</p> | |
| <p>New measure</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no</p> |

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| Business Start 2021 | <p><u><i>Content of the measure:</i></u> This measure offers seed and growth funding for small start-ups. The measure supports small start-up undertakings that have a viable business concept throughout their development phase prior to seeking third party equity. Following an evaluation of the business concept, start-up ventures considered by Malta Enterprise as economical feasible may receive an initial grant of up to ten thousand euro (€10,000) to help them develop their business proposal.</p> <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> The measure is relevant for the KPI on unicorns and is expected to contribute directly to the digital transformation of businesses by facilitating the growth of innovative scale-ups and improving their access to finance.</p> <p><u><i>Tentative timeline:</i></u> The incentive is available until December 2026.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 1M |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The scheme support startups throughout their development phase prior to seeking third party equity.</p> <p>Between 2023 and 2024 Malta Enterprise assisted 41 startups with a total aid value of EUR525,000.</p> <p>In 2025 there were 5 approvals under this scheme until August.</p> |

Measure 70 – **Start Up Residence Scheme**

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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Start Up Residence Scheme | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> During the last years, the Government of Malta has adopted an open approach toward Start-ups and this has resulted in the attraction of various highly innovative start-ups. The Malta startup residency programme is another tangible policy step towards increasing our competitiveness in this area. The Malta Startup Residence Programme grants a 3-year residence permit, extendable for an additional 5 years, during which beneficiaries are able to reside in Malta while launching their startup venture.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is relevant for the KPI on unicorns and is expected to contribute directly to the digital transformation of businesses by facilitating the growth of innovative scale-ups and improving their access to finance.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The scheme is expected to run until 2028.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | No budget is associated with this measure. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Increased attractiveness of Malta to startups. By 2025, 8 projects were approved. |

Measure 71 – **Business Development Grant**

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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes |
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| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Business Development Grant | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> This measure facilitates value added projects, including new business initiatives, expansions and transformation activities that shall contribute to the regional development of Malta. The scheme may support various activities such as the initial development phase of undertakings establishing an operational base in Malta, expansion projects, consolidation of activities and the reengineering of business processes.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is relevant for the KPI on unicorns and is expected to contribute directly to the digital transformation of businesses by facilitating the growth of innovative scale-ups and improving their access to finance.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The incentive is available until the end of 2027.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 63M |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>The scheme has the objective to assist undertakings that carry out a project aimed to expand and transform their business operation or to consolidate their current activities and reengineer their business processes.</p> <p>In 2023 and 2024, Malta Enterprise has assisted 83 beneficiaries with a total aid value of EUR12.4M.</p> <p>In 2025 there were 38 beneficiaries under this scheme with an aid value of EUR 6.751M.</p> |

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| | The extension of the scheme aims to provide assistance to around 100 businesses in 2026 and another 100 businesses in 2027. |
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| Measure 72 – Improvement and extension of the Seed Investment Scheme (SIS) | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Improvement and extension of the Seed Investment Scheme (SIS) | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The Seed Investment Scheme (SIS) is designed to assist startups in raising equity finance. It aims to provide locally-based startups with access to funding by offering tax credits as incentives, thereby reducing risks for investors. The scheme specifically targets entrepreneurs and startups with innovative and high-risk digital ventures.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is relevant for the KPI on unicorns and is expected to contribute directly to the digital transformation of businesses by facilitating the growth of innovative scale-ups and improving their access to finance.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The scheme is set to expire at the end of 2026.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | No budget is associated with this measure as the assistance provided is in the form of tax credits. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The Seed Investment Scheme (SIS) will be improved and extended in order to help start-ups |

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| | raise equity finance. The Scheme has been relaunched for the period 2024-2026, as a replication of its past form. Consultation currently underway to extend the Scheme's benefits to corporations. |
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| Measure 73 – Start in Malta | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Start in Malta | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> Start in Malta is a governmental initiative aimed to supercharge the Maltese startup ecosystem in order to be the birthplace of many more startup success stories to come. The aim is to make Malta one of the world’s best places for startups, partnering with and uniting the best of startups, incubators, accelerators, private and public sector.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is relevant for the KPI on unicorns and is expected to contribute directly to the digital transformation of businesses by facilitating the growth of innovative scale-ups and improving their access to finance.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> In 2021, StartinMalta was launched as the national start-up brand. Its attractive and informative website sets out the initiatives available. In the same year, it held the first Start-up Festival, bringing together innovative start-ups and scale-ups in Malta, as well as investors and other stakeholders in the start-up eco-system. It is now an annual event.</p> |

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| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | Budget allocated to this measure cannot be disclosed due to the multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral and wide implementation of the measure itself. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the Malta startup ecosystem – uniting and building the community through different events and activities, creating and executing unified marketing and branding strategies, assisting regional development and science-based decision making. • Co-organizing impactful startup events with the community, advocating diversity in age, gender, culture and backgrounds. • Working on educating the local investors and attracting foreign investors to Malta, helping available resources and vital know-how to reach startups and the community at large. • Working on eliminating regulative issues and barriers that are complicating the process of operating a startup, investing or raising funding in Malta, and implementing startup-friendly regulations. <p>In 2024 and 2025, the festival totalled over 4,000 attendees and featured 80 exhibitors.</p> |

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| Measure 74 – Venture Capital Fund | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Venture Capital Fund | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The Government has established a Venture Capital Fund of €10 million, aimed at providing equity investment in start-up companies focused on</p> |

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| | <p>innovative technologies such as video game development, Fintech and E-sports. These companies will have access to the newly established fund, with each start-up being eligible for up to €500,000 in the form of equity investment. The investment by the fund will be pari-passu with that of private venture capital investors.</p> <p>The main objective of this fund is to invest in companies with innovative products and solutions, so that in our country there is a complete ecosystem of support including financing.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is expected to contribute to the creation of a comprehensive ecosystem of support to start-ups that includes financing thus contributing to the target aimed at facilitating the growth of innovative scale-ups and improving access to finance, leading to at least doubling the number of unicorns at Union Level.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> 2024 – 2025</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 10M |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>This fund will help entrepreneurs to create innovative products and solutions in order to ensure a technological ecosystem of support and financing. Over the course of two years, investments will be made in approximately 20 companies.</p> <p>MGVC is currently on track to meet its target of investing in approximately 20 companies over the two-year period.</p> |

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| | <p>As per end 2025, "digital" investments tally 3 in total (with others in the areas of biomedical engineering, sustainable materials and semiconductors/deep tech), all of which have been approved and funded in 2025. Total invested in these 3 ventures is €980,000.</p> |
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| <p>Measure 75 – National Malta Startup Framework</p> | |
| <p>New measure</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no</p> |
| <p>National Malta Startup Framework</p> | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u></p> <p>As part of the government’s electoral programme, Malta Enterprise has been entrusted to develop and implement a Start-up Framework. The objective is to provide administrative simplification and an ecosystem which is agile to the needs of operators, allowing them to get off the ground more easily, scale-up and be sustainable. With this strategy Malta wants to create a framework that is really designed to cater exclusively for the needs of start-ups. This continues to reinforce the strong commitment that Government and Malta Enterprise have towards start-ups. The framework will be divided into three main thematic areas being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity Simplification, • Fiscal Environment, and • Human capital <p>Each of these areas will look into a number of components such as share awards and share options, engagement with apprentices and interns to engage more actively with start-ups, support further R&D work carried by these companies, skills development and attraction of talent.</p> |

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| | <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> The measure is expected to contribute to the creation of a comprehensive ecosystem of support to start-ups that includes financing thus contributing to the target aimed at facilitating the growth of innovative scale-ups and improving access to finance, leading to at least doubling the number of unicorns at Union Level.</p> <p><u><i>Tentative timeline:</i></u> In October 2023, Malta Enterprise launched a stakeholder consultation process for a national Malta Startup Framework. In 2025, the work on the Legal Notice for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Startup framework, • Setting up a startup centre (one stop shop), and • Launching the new share options/awards law <p>is in its finalisation stages and are envisaged to be enacted in early 2026. The Legal Notice on share options/awards will likely enter into force only in 2027.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>No budget is associated with this measure.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>The framework aims to close the gap between what is needed in terms of legal and policy structure and what is currently in place. This will help ensure that Malta remains an attractive jurisdiction.</p> |

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| <p>Measure 76 – EU Startups Summit</p> | |
| <p>New measure</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> |

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| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| EU Startups Summit | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> Malta Enterprise concluded negotiations with the EU Startups Summit, which for the first time will be held in Malta during 2024, 2025 and 2026. The Summit gathers founders, startup enthusiasts, corporates, angel investors, venture capitalists, and media from across Europe.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is expected to contribute to the creation of a comprehensive ecosystem of support to start-ups and fostering a startup culture by attracting new businesses to Malta.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> EU Startups Summit will be held in Malta during 2024, 2025 and 2026.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | No budget can be disclosed at this point. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>In the coming years, the summit is expected to attract 4,500 participants over three years.</p> <p>The first summit was organised in 2024 attracting some 2,000 participants. The summit showcased some of Europe’s most promising startups and provided opportunities to learn from successful European entrepreneurs. The EU-Startups Summit is the annual flagship event of EU-Startups.com – a leading online magazine with a focus on startups in Europe. Over 2,000 founders, startup enthusiasts, corporates, angel investors, VCs, and media representatives from across Europe attended the event, which aims to be a key meeting point for</p> |

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| | aspiring entrepreneurs and investors looking to establish international tech companies. |
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| Measure 77 – eSports/ Game Dev | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| eSports/ Game Dev | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> Malta continues to invest heavily in esports, supporting major global tournament organisers operating from the island. In line with Vision 2050, GamingMalta hosts Tier 1 esports events and grassroots tournaments to elevate local competitive talent. A three-year partnership with Blast TV positions Malta as a European esports broadcast hub, anchored by a 1,000sqm production studio delivering continuous international content across leading global titles.</p> <p>GamingMalta issued a RFP for esports which will assist local esports organisations for the organisation of conferences, seminars, workshops and networking events in Malta relating to esports, with the aim of sustaining and growing the esports industry and community in Malta, increase domestic and foreign investment in esports, educate and develop skills relating to esports.</p> <p>Supporting and organisation of Playcon, which has become a yearly annual event bringing the interactive entertainment industry under one roof.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure contributes to the target concerning ICT specialists (20 million ICT specialists reflecting 10% of the total workforce).</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u></p> |

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| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>EUR 3.5M</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>This measure is leaving an impact on placing Malta at the centre of Esports world community.</p> <p>During the first Blast tournament held in August 2025, Malta featured approximately, over 66M Live Views, and 800K Peak Viewership. The eyes of Esports was on Malta. This project is expected to leave per year €20M in economic impacts and €11M in media value.</p> <p>More events and eSports communities will have financial aid to increase their activities for the benefit of the eSports community and industry.</p> <p>Playcon enhances GamingMalta’s role as a leading organiser and promoter of the local games ecosystem. Playcon’s global reputation and instant-play technology will help attract greater international attention to Malta’s gaming sector, strengthening the country’s positioning as an innovation-friendly hub. The event included an ExPo and a B2B Summit which is likely to support talent initiatives, and industry programmes , while also creating new opportunities for partnerships with global studios and tech providers.</p> <p>In 2025, Playcon registered over 35k visitors, making it one of the most visited expos in the country.</p> |

Measure 78 – **Basecamp Incubator**

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| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Basecamp Incubator | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The Basecamp Incubator acts as a soft-landing and growth platform for foreign direct investment and early-stage local studios. It offers workspace, mentoring, operational support, and delivers accelerator programmes tailored to interactive entertainment startups—helping emerging studios establish, grow, and scale from Malta.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure contributes to Digital transformation of businesses: Innovators - grow scale-ups & finance to double EU Unicorns</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> Officially opened in November 2021</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | EUR 400,000 / year |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <p>GamingMalta offers a 700sqm incubator facility for the video game, esports, and immersive technologies. The expected impact is the increase in foreign and local game dev studios on the island. The facility host a maximum of 10 studios per cohort.</p> <p>15 dev studios have made use of the incubator so far. In 2026 the incubator will host 10 companies.</p> |

Measure 79 – **Redevelopment of servizz.gov Citizen Portal.**

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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Redevelopment of servizz.gov Citizen Portal. | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> Since there are over 1000 services available for citizens, personalisation will surely enhance the user experience on the servizz.gov citizen portal by delivering tailored content, recommendations, and services to individual users based on their preferences, behaviour, and needs. It is envisaged that the new Citizen Portal will still have services grouped into the current established Super Sectors and Sectors but will also be incorporating life events to greatly enhance user experience and provide targeted information and services to individuals based on their specific needs and circumstances. Business owners will therefore tag services under the appropriate Super Sector & Sector and under its life event category. Once such tagging has been formulated from the back end, through available user data, it will be easier to personalize the content and services presented to individual needs at critical points in their lives. For example, if a user indicates s/he is expecting a baby, the portal will offer specific information about prenatal care, maternity leave, child benefits, and available parenting resources.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is relevant for the KPI on the online provision of key public services for citizens and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digitalisation of public services target.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The implementation is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.</p> |

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| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | National (allocated): EUR 244k EU (allocated): EUR 200k |
| Expected impact and related timing: | By implementing these user friendly and easily accessible services online, government will reduce bureaucratic barriers, save time and resources for both citizens and public agencies, and enhance the overall citizen experience through the provision of information in a timely manner based on citizens' needs. The initiative will also increase the automation of service application process where applicable, aiming to enhance personalisation, life event tagging, and automation, improving citizen experience and service accessibility. |

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| Measure 80 – Development of an interactive intelligent business portal | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Development of an interactive intelligent business portal | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u></p> <p>The development of an intelligent and interactive business portal was being implemented by Malta Enterprise and Business 1st together with MITA and in collaboration with other major Government stakeholders. In Q3 2024, the said project was passed over to Malta Business Registry to continue the implementation. The portal will change the way that businesses interact with Government as there will be a paradigm shift from the traditional approach where multiple services are accessed separately to one where multiple submissions are made from a single point. Once the business portal comes to life entrepreneurs and/or their representative will be able to interact with</p> |

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| | <p>Government through a single interactive and intelligent system that would automatically and seamlessly forward service requests to the various Government departments/entities in a manner which enables the latter to increase efficiency.</p> <p>The portal will allow businesses or their representatives to open/close a business, avail of Government services, pay taxes, manage and pay Licences and any other payment through the Government Payment Gateway, and apply for incentives from different Government entities in a seamless manner. The portal will leverage on the data already held by the individual departments as it is being built around the concept of sharing of data thereby enforcing the once only principle. This means that businesses will no longer need to fill in lengthy forms asking them for information which Government already holds in one or more departments. Additionally, information which Government does not already have on business will be supplied only once to the public administration and will thereon, as long as it is not time bound, be shared, according to legal provisions, across different entities on a needs only basis.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is relevant for the KPI on the online provision of key public services for businesses and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digitalisation of public services target.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> It is expected that by end of Q2 2025 phase 1 of the project will go live. Phase 2 is expected to be completed by Q4 2026 . Maintenance will kickstart right after for a period of 4 years.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, | National (allocated): EUR 2.98 million |

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| other resources – including human resources – allocated: | A team of 2 employees (1 full timer and another 1 employee that have other duties besides the implementation of the Portal) are currently allocated to this measure. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | The measure will lead to increased efficiencies and better-quality services for businesses by decreasing drastically the administrative burden on the business community, and will also enhance the operations of the public administration. It will also guide businesses in the myriad of Government services and incentives available, enhancing business compliance with rules and regulations and the paying of taxes. It will also remind businesses when licenses/permits are up for renewal or payments to Government are due. It will also notify them on new rules and regulations, incentives, and any other information relevant to their line of work. |

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| Measure 81 – Implementation of a fully automated online system for registration of businesses | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Implementation of a fully automated online system for registration of businesses | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i></p> <p>The Malta Business Registry (MBR) is undertaking a digitisation reform, including the upgrading of the company law framework and the MBR’s online portal.</p> <p>The MBR launched its new online platform, BAROS (Business Automation Registry Online System) which introduces new digital features aimed at better assisting companies and corporate service providers. Following months of preparations and constant testing, both internal as well as external, particularly with practitioners and stakeholders,</p> |

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| | <p>the re-engineering of processes ensured a smooth transition from the previous system to the new portal.</p> <p>This is also aligned to Directive (EU) 2019/1151 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 amending Directive (EU) 2017/1132 as regards the use of digital tools and processes in company law, and Directive (EU) 2019/2121 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 amending Directive (EU) 2017/1132 as regards cross-border conversions, mergers and divisions.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i></p> <p>The measure is focused on digitalising more public services related to the incorporation of new companies and commercial partnerships and providing access to the system using an eID Login. This initiative will also assist the registry in going paperless.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i></p> <p>The programme started in 2018 and is expected to run until 2025 due to having different phases to increase the number of online services.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>Following the project going live, the total budget attributed to this measure amounts to around 1.2 million EUR which includes 4 years:- development of new features, infrastructure fees on cloud environment, as well as the support and maintenance. Moreover, 4 FTE are allocated towards the project.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>This new online system will rework business processes to increase the efficiency and ease customer interaction between CSPs, the general public, and the MBR.</p> |

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| Measure 82 – Implementation of a Central Data Repository | |
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| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Development of a Central Data Repository | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The Malta Business Registry (MBR), is the leading entity for the development of a Repository solution. The development of this repository aligns with the government work programme outlined in the Electoral Manifesto and mentioned in the 2023 Budget. The centralised repository for compilation of data purposes would include authenticated documents issued by Maltese Government entities, such as Identification documents as well as other supporting documents such as utility bills, contracts, bank statements, pay slips, amongst others.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is relevant for the KPI on the online provision of key public services for businesses and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digitalisation of public services target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> It is expected that by end of Q1 2025, the MBR would have established the successful bidder following the call for tenders issued in Q4 2024. The implementation is expected to be completed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 – end of quarter 3 2025 • Phase 2 – end of quarter 2 2026 • Maintenance and Support – start in end of quarter 3 2025 and will continue in the following 72 months till end of quarter 3 2031 |

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| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>Budget allocated to this measure is that of €1.7m (locally funded) for a total duration of eighty (80) months subdivided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Central Data Repository (Phase 1 - 8 months) (Phase 2 - 10 months) • Maintenance and Support – 72 months (after completion of phase 1) <p>Human Resources: 1 Project Leader/ Manager and 3 Senior Analysts.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>The Repository will facilitate the process of identification of applicants when government authorities and subject persons are carrying out their Know Your Client (KYC) processes. The proposal is in line with the government's ambition to promote the once-only principle, consequently contributing towards the ease of doing business in Malta, and for this purpose the solution shall provide the facility of connecting all government authorities and subject persons involved in KYC processes. The solution shall also provide for the possibility of connecting within it private due diligence companies engaged in the carry out due diligence on behalf of applicants or subject persons. The repository will facilitate data integration and promote collaboration across different departments and systems, thus eliminating data silos by consolidating scattered data sources into a single, securer platform.</p> |

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| <p>Measure 83 – Investment C3-I3: Further digitalisation and modernisation of the public administration</p> | |
| <p>New measure</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no</p> |

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| <p>Investment C3-I3: Further digitalisation and modernisation of the public administration</p> | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The objective of the investment is for the public administration to provide better customer experience to citizens and business organisations, to increase the uptake of online services and ultimately to enhance the competitiveness of the Maltese economy. This investment shall also develop modern and remote means of working for public officers, which is expected to enable the public administration to be a model employer, whilst providing for business continuity, promoting gender equality (for example, by increasing flexibility) and caring for the environment.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is relevant for the KPIs on the online provision of key public services for citizens and businesses and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digitalisation of public services target.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The investment shall be implemented by 31 December 2025.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>EUR 8.12M</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>The investment shall consist of a number of measures aiming at improving customer experience with online services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reengineering public and intra-facing services to improve their delivery process, in particular by transforming them into workflows, maximising automation opportunities and integrating with back-end systems. The reengineering process shall |

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| | <p>also involve clients to address their main needs and challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing the front-end customer experience in the physical hubs (for example, by providing the customer care officers with the necessary digital tools and implementing the centrally managed queuing system) and online (for example, by utilising artificial intelligence solutions to facilitate processes through text-to-speech/speech-to-text sentiment analysis tools and natural language processing engines). • creating a platform, which connects all stakeholders concerned in the property transfer process (such as banks, notaries, land registry, public registry, and utilities) and is based on a distributed ledger technology, to facilitate the process of transferring the ownership of property. • setting up base and administrative registers for data sharing and reuse purposes in line with the Directive (EU) 2019/1024 on Open Data, to contribute towards the simplification of administrative processes and the attainment of the once-only principle; and • introducing the National Single Window for customs to contribute to fully digitalising and automating the clearance of goods process. <p>The investment shall also serve to further develop remote working solutions for public officers, including by strengthening the Modern Digital Workplace, a remote work platform implemented in Malta since 2019. This part of the investment shall be composed of the provision of the necessary hardware and software to enable remote work for public officers.</p> <p>Servizz.gov has invested in digitalisation across several areas, including upgrading ICT systems,</p> |
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| | <p>automating internal and customer-facing workflows through online forms. Additional initiatives include the integration of AI-driven analytics and the enhancement of CRM and knowledge management systems. Together, these efforts aim to improve the customer experience, increase the uptake of online services, and support Malta’s overall competitiveness.</p> <p>Remote work solutions for public officers are being strengthened, with new hardware and applications deployed to support flexible, secure, and modern digital workplaces. Hotdesking is available at six regional Servizz.gov hubs across Malta and Gozo, designed to support flexible, modern work practices for public service employees. Hubs are equipped with hot desks, lounges, executive offices, and boardrooms, supporting a total of approximately 135 seats. No prebooking is required and officers can visit any hub and log in at the reception tablet.</p> |
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| <p>Measure 84 – Servizz.gov Queue Management System (QMS)</p> | |
| <p>New measure</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no</p> |
| <p>Servizz.gov Queue Management System (QMS)</p> | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> In 2024, the Queue Management System (QMS) was implemented in 25 hubs - 22 regional and 3 technical centres - with the aim of enhancing service efficiency, reducing wait times, and improving the citizen experience. This initiative marks a significant step in Servizz.gov’s digital transformation journey, reinforcing its commitment to citizen-centric service delivery and multichannel accessibility.</p> |

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| | <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is relevant for the KPIs on the online provision of key public services for citizens and businesses and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digitalisation of public services target.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> The measure was implemented in 2024.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | RRP funded - SPD7/2022/074 – Ticketing System) Contract Value excl VAT €253,586.56 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system's real-time dashboards track queue lengths, waiting times, and no-shows, enabling better resource allocation and operational responsiveness. • Integrated with the agency's CRM and is future-ready for an online appointment booking feature, scheduled for launch by Q1 2026. This will allow citizens to schedule visits in advance, further reducing physical queues and enhancing predictability. Together with the development of the Citizen Portal, this will further enhance citizen-centric, multichannel service delivery. • Supports data analytics for continuous performance monitoring and service improvement. |

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| Measure 85 – Software as a Service (SaaS) for Local Councils | |
| New measure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes |

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| | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Software as a Service (SaaS) for Local Councils | <p><u>Content of the measure:</u> The primary aim of the project is to implement a Software as a Service (SaaS) solution across the 68 Local Councils, with the goal of enhancing the management of several key systems. These include the bulky refuse collection system, the transport booking system, and the customer support system. Additionally, the project encompasses the development of a Mobile Application (Mobile App.), which will serve as a centralised access point for all applications used by local councils.</p> <p><u>Link to the target:</u> The measure is relevant for the KPIs on the online provision of key public services for citizens and businesses and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digitalisation of public services target.</p> <p><u>Tentative timeline:</u> Work on this measure will be initiated in October 2026 and will be tied to a contract period of five years.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | €875,000 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Local councils are currently managing their systems in a fragmented manner, utilising a mix of software solutions and manual processes. This approach often leads to inefficiencies and inconsistencies in service delivery. The goal is to streamline these software solutions to create a more cohesive and efficient system. This will not only benefit the residents by providing more |

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| | reliable and accessible services but also support the employees managing these systems, making their work more efficient and less cumbersome. |
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| Measure 86 – Development and Implementation of the Digital Health & Health Data Strategy 2030 | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Development and Implementation of the Digital Health & Health Data Strategy 2030 | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> The Digital Health and Health Data Strategy 2030 will address the following thematic areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling Citizens and Patients to Take Increased Ownership of Their Health through Digital Solutions • Improving Digital Tools for Health Service Providers in the Public and Private Sectors • Connecting Health Service Providers to Achieve Greater Continuity Of Care • Enabling Digital Transformation of Public Health for Improved Efficiency and Effectiveness • Investing in Digital Health for Innovation • Promoting Interoperability and Ensuring Data Security in Healthcare Services • Strengthening Governance in the Digital Health Ecosystem <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is relevant for the KPI on access to e-health records and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of online access</p> |

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| | <p>services for all citizens to their electronic health records data.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The first version of the myHealth product roadmap has been finalised and will cover from 2023 up to 2026.</p> |
| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | No budget is associated with this measure. However any projects and initiatives coming out of the Strategy itself will. For example, it has already been made public that the implementation of electronic medical records in all our publicly funded health care facilities will cost around EUR100 million over 10 years, partly funded through EU contributions. |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Achievement of online access services for all citizens to their electronic health records data. The Strategy will be finalised by Q2 2026. |

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| Measure 87 – Development of the myHealth portal further into a comprehensive portal for interaction of citizens and patients with the national healthcare system | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Development of the myHealth portal further into a comprehensive portal for interaction of citizens and patients with the national healthcare system | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> A comprehensive Product Roadmap is being developed to be used as a dynamic guide for the vision of myHealth, thereby allowing the myHealth team to align the implementation of features depending on the developing priorities and the achievement of the 2030 vision.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i></p> |

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| | <p>The measure is relevant for the KPI on access to e-health records and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of online access services for all citizens to their electronic health records data.</p> <p>Tentative timeline: The first version of the myHealth product roadmap has been finalised and will cover from 2023 up to 2026.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>National (allocated): EUR 1.2 million</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>As an essential part of the roadmap, the myHealth portal will also evolve into being the user interface for the National Electronic Health Records (NEHR) platform. A Personal Health Records component will be implemented, allowing users to upload copies of their medical records and to contribute with their own data. Access will be enabled for all citizens (including children, elderly and disabled) through enhancement of the existing proxy facilities, in line with a key Europe Digital Decade target for 2030. The consent model within myHealth will be widened to include linking with health professionals other than doctors, and the ability to allow access to a wider range of healthcare providers.</p> <p>This is an ongoing project with continuous development into the foreseeable future. Development is kept in line with the Digital Decade's KPIs and to align with the myHealth@EU services as detailed in the EHDS Regulation and its upcoming Implementation Acts.</p> |

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| Measure 88 – Development of a formal framework to boost the use of eID for digital signatures. | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Development of a formal framework to boost the use of eID for digital signatures. | <p><u><i>Content of the measure:</i></u> A formal framework will be created to boost usage of the ID card for creating digital signatures as a secure alternative to manual signatures and/or clients having to be physically present to authenticate their identity when signing documents, correspondence, online applications and contracts.</p> <p>The current infrastructure caters for the provision of electronic signatures in line with the requirements of the e-IDAS Regulation. The Government of Malta has commissioned Malta Electronic Certification Services Limited (MECS) as the Trust Service Provider (TSP) responsible for the issuance and management of certificates contained within Identity Cards and Residence Permits that allow for the qualified electronic signatures providing the highest level of assurance with the same legal effect as wet signatures and is recognised in all Member States of the EU. Identità, being the government agency responsible for identity management solutions at a national level, has been approached by several departments within the Government of Malta to onboard the use of such signatures in their processes, for which Identità remains open to provide its assistance to utilise the current infrastructure.</p> <p><u><i>Link to the target:</i></u> The measure is relevant for the KPI on the online provision of key public services for citizens and access to eID and is expected to contribute directly</p> |

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| | <p>to the achievement of the digitalisation of public services target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> The project is being implemented in a gradual manner.</p> |
| <p>Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated:</p> | <p>Budget cannot be disclosed at this point.</p> |
| <p>Expected impact and related timing:</p> | <p>Identità is currently spearheading a national digital transformation by modernizing its internal systems and transitioning toward a paperless strategy. Central to this initiative is the pilot "Searches" system and the integration of Qualified Electronic Signatures (QES), which carry the same legal weight as traditional wet signatures under the eIDAS Regulation. By digitizing testamentary searches and internal administrative workflows, the Agency has successfully reduced bureaucracy and increased process efficiency without compromising security.</p> <p>Beyond its internal operations, Identità has acted as a key consultant for both the public and private sectors, guiding government departments and private entities through the onboarding and authentication processes for digital signatures. This collaborative effort includes working closely with the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) to advocate for the legal amendments necessary to facilitate broader national adoption of these digital tools.</p> <p>Through 2025, the Agency focused on scaling its infrastructure, most notably through the introduction of a "Remote Signer" solution. This new service is designed to offer greater flexibility for remote transactions while adhering to strict security standards. To support this rollout, Identità</p> |

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| | plans to launch a social media marketing campaign to educate the public on using national ID cards for digital signing, ensuring the infrastructure remains reliable, user-friendly, and widely adopted across all sectors. |
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| Measure 89 – Implementation of a ‘digital wallet’ that can store an electronic version of all official documents | |
| New measure | <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no |
| Implementation of a ‘digital wallet’ that can store an electronic version of all official documents | <p><i>Content of the measure:</i> To match the pace of modernisation within the public service, this measure will provide citizens with a digital wallet which can store the qualified and unqualified electronic attestations of Maltese citizens, residents and businesses. These attestations can be used for authenticating users of this wallet. Users will be able to share attestations with Relying Parties and can also request their revocation. The Wallet will further support the digitalisation of both the public and private sector in a secure and trusted manner, allowing users to use it even within other Member States.</p> <p><i>Link to the target:</i> The measure is relevant for the KPI on the online provision of key public services for citizens and access to eID and is expected to contribute directly to the achievement of the digitalisation of public services target.</p> <p><i>Tentative timeline:</i> This is dependent on the completion of the legislative discussions for Member States to issue digital wallets.</p> |

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| Budget allocated or planned and, if relevant, other resources – including human resources – allocated: | For 2025: EUR 1M HR: 2 |
| Expected impact and related timing: | Transitioning away from paper-based processes and reducing costs, system inefficiencies, and risks in cases of loss or theft. |

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Section 5: Main policies, measures, and actions to contribute to the general objectives

| | General Objectives | Areas of Possible Contributions |
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| Digital citizenship | (a) promoting a human-centred, fundamental-rights-based, inclusive, transparent and open digital environment where secure and interoperable digital technologies and services observe and enhance Union principles, rights and values and are accessible to all, everywhere in the Union. | <p><u>Malta Digitali 2022-2027</u></p> <p>Malta Digitali articulates the national strategy for the period 2022–2027, outlining Malta’s commitment to sustaining its leadership in digital transformation. It emphasises the importance of remaining attuned to the evolving social and economic opportunities and challenges. The strategy delineates the Government’s role not only as a policy maker, promoter, and regulator, but also as a proactive catalyst for change—leveraging digitalisation in collaboration with other societal and economic stakeholders.</p> |
| | (b) reinforcing Member States’ collective resilience and bridging the digital divide, achieving gender and geographic balance by promoting continuous opportunities for all individuals, developing basic and advanced digital skills and competencies, including through vocational and professional training, and lifelong learning, and fostering the development of high-performing digital capacities within horizontal education and training systems. | <p><u>National eSkills Strategy 2022-2025</u></p> <p>The National eSkills Strategy outlines Malta’s strategic framework for the period 2022–2025, with a focus on ensuring the development and availability of both current and future digital competencies. It takes into account national, sectoral, and specialised initiatives in digital skills, and is aligned with the European Union’s digital targets for 2030.</p> |
| | (g) ensuring that online participation in democratic life is possible for everyone, | <p>The Strategy is underpinned by principles of broad inclusivity across society and the economy, and promotes education, awareness, multi-stakeholder</p> |

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| | <p>and that public services, health and care services are also accessible in a trusted and secure online environment for everyone, in particular for disadvantaged groups including persons with disabilities, and in rural and remote areas, offering inclusive, efficient, interoperable and personalised services and tools with high security and privacy standards.</p> | <p>engagement, and coherence with overarching strategic objectives.</p> <p><u>MFHEA National Strategic Plan 2022-2030</u></p> <p>The principal aim of the MFHEA National Strategic Plan 2022–2030 is to establish a cohesive and dynamic knowledge ecosystem that is accessible to all. This is to be achieved through coordinated policy efforts, enhanced quality assurance mechanisms, internationalisation strategies, and targeted initiatives in education, research, and the green and digital economy. The Plan seeks to address fragmentation and foster synergies across sectors. It places emphasis on streamlined implementation, encourages self-assessment and institutional mergers among educational providers, and advocates for evidence-based approaches in the piloting of new policies.</p> |
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| | | <p><u>A Social Vision for Malta 2035</u></p> <p>The overarching goal of the Social Vision for Malta 2035 is to foster a socially just and prosperous society by addressing a comprehensive range of thematic areas, including poverty, families, children, youth, ageing, addiction, reintegration of ex-offenders, disability, LGBTIQ rights, violence, abuse, exploitation, and migration. The Vision is committed to ensuring that no individual is left behind, providing tailored support across different life stages and population groups. It is guided by the principles of sustainable development and inclusive policymaking.</p> |
| <p>Fostering leadership and sovereignty</p> | <p>(c) ensuring the Union’s digital sovereignty in an open manner, in particular by secure and accessible digital and data infrastructures capable of efficiently storing, transmitting and processing vast volumes of data that enable other technological developments, supporting the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union’s industry and economy, in particular of SMEs, and the resilience of the Union’s value chains, as well as fostering the start-up ecosystem and the smooth functioning of the European digital innovation hubs.</p> <p>(d) promoting the deployment and the use of digital capabilities with a view to reducing the</p> | <p><u>Vision 2050</u></p> <p>At the beginning of 2026, Malta will launch Vision 2050: a comprehensive national strategy establishing a clear implementation framework and measurable targets up to 2035. Vision 2050 will set out macro-level indicators and sectoral objectives, supported by key performance indicators (KPIs) to monitor progress in areas such as digital transformation, sustainability, economic resilience, and social well-being. Digital will be positioned as a horizontal enabler across all policy areas. The strategy is being developed through broad stakeholder engagement and will ensure alignment with Malta’s commitments under the EU Digital Decade and other national strategies.</p> <p>Vision 2050 will directly support the achievement of Malta’s Digital Decade targets by providing a long-term strategic framework that integrates digital skills, infrastructure, business</p> |

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| | <p>geographical digital divide and granting access to digital technologies and data on open, accessible and fair terms, in order to achieve a high level of digital intensity and innovation in Union enterprises, in particular start-ups and SMEs.</p> <p>(e) developing a comprehensive and sustainable ecosystem of interoperable digital infrastructures, where high performance, edge, cloud, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, data management and network connectivity work in convergence, to promote their uptake by businesses in the Union, and to create opportunities for growth and jobs through research, development and innovation, and ensuring that the Union has a competitive, secure and sustainable data cloud infrastructure in place, with high security and privacy standards and complying with the Union data protection rules.</p> <p>(f) promoting a Union digital regulatory environment to support the ability of Union undertakings, especially that of SMEs, to compete fairly along global value chains.</p> | <p>digitalization, and public service innovation. The strategy will ensure that national policies and initiatives remain aligned with EU objectives for 2030 and beyond, fostering coherence and continuity in Malta’s digital transformation journey.</p> <p>The launch of Vision 2050 in early 2026 will provide a unified direction for Malta’s long-term development, enabling coordinated action across government, industry, and society. Immediate impacts include enhanced policy coherence, improved stakeholder engagement, and the establishment of robust monitoring mechanisms. Progress towards the defined targets will be tracked annually, with significant milestones expected by 2030 and interim objectives set for 2035.</p> <p><u>National Cyber Security Strategy 2023-2026</u></p> <p>The National Cyber Security Strategy 2023–2026 is principally aimed at strengthening Malta’s cyber security and resilience. This objective is pursued through robust governance structures, enhanced defence capabilities, the development of digital competences, the cultivation of a cyber-aware culture, and active international collaboration. The Strategy seeks to foster trust and confidence in the digital environment, thereby contributing to both economic prosperity and societal well-being.</p> <p>It is structured around four strategic pillars: Cyber Security Governance Capacity, Cyber Defence Capacity, Cyber</p> |
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| | <p>(i) facilitating fair and non-discriminatory conditions for users during the digital transformation throughout the Union by strengthening the synergies between private and public investments and the use of Union and national funds, and by developing predictable regulatory and supportive approaches that also involve the regional and local levels.</p> <p>(k) improving resilience to cyberattacks, contributing to increasing risk-awareness and the knowledge of cybersecurity processes, and increasing the efforts of public and private organisations to achieve at least basic levels of cybersecurity.</p> | <p>Competence and Culture, and International Cooperation. These pillars guide the implementation of targeted actions as outlined in the accompanying Action Plan, while also recognising the evolving technological, regulatory, and global landscape.</p> <hr/> <p><u>MITA Strategy 2024-2026</u></p> <p>MITA is poised to take its next strategic step in its 30-year history of supporting digital transformation within Malta’s Public Administration. This move is driven by significant international and European developments in digital legislation, funding, and project work—particularly in areas such as data, interoperability, cybersecurity, resilience, and artificial intelligence. Locally, Malta has also outlined strategic actions across domains like data, cybersecurity, and digital skills. The Public Administration continues to evolve organisationally, embracing digitalisation as a pathway to modernisation. MITA’s internal changes further reinforce the need for a renewed strategic approach.</p> <p>The MITA Strategy 2024-2026 has the overall strategic objectives of:</p> |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • positioning MITA as a proactive enabler of digital transformation within Malta’s Public Administration, aligning with both European and national developments in technology, governance, and policy; and • modernising public services through digitalisation, leveraging MITA’s organisational evolution and strategic capabilities to address emerging challenges and opportunities. <p><u>MDIA Strategic Plan 2023-2025</u></p> <p>The MDIA Strategic Plan 2023–2025 is principally focused on advancing Malta’s digital innovation and technological landscape. This will be achieved through the cultivation of stakeholder collaboration, the promotion of technological progress, and the assurance of operational effectiveness, all underpinned by sound governance principles. The Authority seeks to position Malta as a leading centre for digital innovation, while upholding regulatory excellence and contributing meaningfully to the expansion of the digital economy.</p> <p><u>Malta’s Smart Specialisation Strategy 2021-2027</u></p> <p>Malta’s Smart Specialisation Strategy 2021–2027 focuses on directing public and private investments towards priority areas identified through an Entrepreneurial Discovery Process. These areas include health and well-being, sustainable resource utilisation, smart manufacturing, marine technology, aviation and aerospace, and</p> |
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| | | <p>emerging digital technologies. The Strategy seeks to harness Malta’s competitive advantages and research capabilities, in alignment with the European Commission’s Cohesion Policy for innovation-led development. Its implementation adopts a comprehensive approach, employing a range of instruments and maintaining an ongoing Entrepreneurial Discovery Process to ensure the effective deployment of the selected thematic domains.</p> <p><u>Malta Economic Vision 2030</u></p> <p>The Malta Economic Vision 2030 is primarily focused on evolving and transforming the national economy in response to shifting global dynamics in the post-COVID-19 era. It underscores the importance of adapting to enduring changes, stimulating recovery, and fostering sustainability and innovation, while aligning national priorities beyond traditional GDP metrics. The Vision advocates for a cohesive policy-making approach that integrates economic, social, environmental, and cultural dimensions, with an emphasis on long-term well-being, efficient infrastructure, digital advancement, skills development, and environmental stewardship.</p> <p><u>Regional Development Strategy for Gozo 2021-2030</u></p> <p>This strategy supports sustainable development by promoting efficient spatial utilisation, striking a balance between the socio-economic drivers of spatial growth and the preservation of Gozo’s ecological and cultural significance.</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Malta – The Ultimate AI Launchpad – A Strategy and Vision for Artificial Intelligence in Malta 2030</u></p> <p>This strategy seeks to chart a clear and purposeful course for Malta to establish a strategic competitive edge within the global economy by positioning itself as a frontrunner in the field of Artificial Intelligence. It aims to cultivate a robust and innovation-driven ecosystem that supports research, development, and deployment of AI technologies. Through targeted investments, policy alignment, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, the strategy aspires to enhance Malta’s visibility and influence in the international AI landscape, while contributing to sustainable economic growth and digital leadership.</p> <p><u>MCA eCommerce Strategy 2022 – 2025</u></p> <p>The MCA eCommerce Strategy 2022–2025 sets forth a renewed strategic framework that builds upon previous initiatives and provides clear policy direction to advance eCommerce in Malta—both in terms of adoption and service quality. In light of the sustained global growth of eCommerce and the transformative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which accelerated technological innovation across sectors, this strategy seeks to harness the momentum generated to further strengthen Malta’s digital economy.</p> <p>Anchored in the broader objectives of the Digital Malta Strategy, the MCA’s approach focuses on enhancing the regulatory environment to support a fair, open, and sustainable eCommerce</p> |
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| | | <p>ecosystem. This includes targeted awareness and education initiatives aimed at increasing uptake, building seller capacity, and promoting excellence in service delivery. The strategy also aligns with Directive 2000/31/EC on electronic commerce, reinforcing Malta’s commitment to EU-level digital policy and governance.</p> <p><u>Malta’s Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)</u></p> <p>This plan outlines the reforms and public investment initiatives that Malta intends to implement with the support of the Recovery and Resilience Facility. It encompasses six strategic areas: sustainable transport, circular economy, clean energy and energy efficiency in buildings, digital transformation of public administration and the legal system, targeted projects in the health and education sectors, and institutional reforms. The plan is designed to support Malta’s long-term resilience and growth by aligning national priorities with European recovery objectives.</p> <p><u>Achieving a Service of Excellence - A 5-YEAR STRATEGY FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE</u></p> <p>This strategy is designed to enhance the delivery of public services by fostering a more seamless and user-friendly interaction between the Public Service and its clients. It seeks to eliminate perceptions of complexity or difficulty in accessing services, thereby promoting a more responsive, efficient, and client-centred approach. Through improved coordination, digital innovation, and service integration, the strategy aims to</p> |
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| | | <p>ensure that public service engagement is intuitive, accessible, and aligned with the evolving needs of individuals and communities.</p> <p><u>Public Administration Data Strategy 2023-2027</u></p> <p>This strategy presents a comprehensive framework through which the Government will lead efforts across technical, legislative, organisational, and cultural dimensions. It emphasises a collaborative approach, engaging stakeholders from various sectors to ensure cohesive and effective implementation. By integrating policy development, operational reform, and cultural transformation, the strategy aims to drive systemic change and foster a resilient, forward-looking public administration aligned with national priorities and international standards.</p> <p><u>Malta Digital Justice Strategy 2022-2027</u></p> <p>The Digital Justice Strategy Malta 2022–2027 aims to improve the quality and efficiency of justice through innovation, digitalisation, and new technology, while fully respecting the rule of law and guaranteeing the rights of all citizens. Its vision is to create a justice system that is fair, accessible, and efficient for everyone. The mission is realised through four strategic goals: making justice processes digital by default, ensuring broad access to justice and legal information, introducing advanced analytics for better decision-making, and building digital skills among all stakeholders. These are underpinned by principles such as independence of the</p> |
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| | | <p>judiciary, fair trial, digital inclusiveness, stakeholder involvement, accountability, transparency, and alignment with European and international standards.</p> <p><u>Cyber Breakfast</u></p> <p>Organisation of quarterly Cyber Breakfast events whereby the Maltese cybersecurity community gathers to discuss topics of interest facilitated through delivery of presentations, panel discussions, workshops and even through training opportunities. We also organise Cyber Talks in the form of a webinar to discuss specific topics with time to question the expert. A portal dedicated to the National Cybersecurity Community is also available.</p> <p><u>Cyber Assess Scheme</u></p> <p>The Cyber Assess Scheme aims to bolster businesses’ security and resilience by offering specialised cybersecurity expertise and services. This initiative empowers businesses to proactively handle cyber threats, strengthen local enterprises, and reduce supply chain risks in the private sector. Tailored offerings furnish technical and business acumen, enhancing IT system security and effectively addressing information security threats.</p> <p><u>CYBER ROOT</u></p> <p>CYBER ROOT is Malta’s leading cybersecurity conference, bringing together internationally acclaimed speakers and respected local experts to share cutting-edge insights, strategies, and real-world experiences shaping the future of cybersecurity. This is delivered through thought-provoking discussions,</p> |
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| | | <p>dynamic presentations, and interactive sessions, allowing attendees to network with professionals, innovators, and decision-makers from across industries.</p> <p>Investment on cybersecurity and digital infrastructure</p> <p>By the end of 2026, Malta aims to establish and operationalize it’s National CSIRT within MITA’s Cyber Security Department, serving a national constituency beyond Public Administration in line with NIS2. Objectives: (i) monitor and analyze threats, vulnerabilities and incidents; (ii) provide early warnings and advisories; (iii) support incident response and forensics; (iv) enable national incident reporting and coordination; (v) strengthen vulnerability management; (vi) participate in the EU CSIRTs Network; (vii) uplift maturity via certification, training and exercises.</p> <p>Bu such investment, this will enable faster detection and coordinated response for essential & important entities; improved national situational awareness via standardized reporting/intel sharing; uplifted sector resilience; formal EU CSIRTs Network participation & mutual assistance; maturity improvements (certification); strengthened trust in digital services.</p> <p><u>Benefit Fraud AI Detection System</u></p> <p>This project will transition the AI-based Social Benefit Fraud Detection Proof-of-Concept (PoC) into a full-scale production solution for the Ministry for Social Policy and Children’s Rights (MSPC). The solution will automate the</p> |
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| | | <p>detection and prioritization of potentially fraudulent cases, accelerate investigations, reduce manual workload and costs, and improve operational efficiency. It will also help ensure fair benefit distribution. Return on investment will be measured by reclaimed social benefits and key performance metrics, including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.</p> <p>MSPC’s strategic goal is to embed AI and analytics into its operations aligning with the Ministry’s digital transformation and fraud mitigation strategies by enhancing fraud detection capabilities, ensuring compliance with social benefits and housing policies, reducing reputational risk, and supporting fair and transparent benefit distribution.</p> <p>This AI solution shall provide the MSPC staff members the ability to analyze the results in less time and pro-actively follow-up and investigate these cases quicker. Moreover, it shall also be able to determine common traits, patterns, and trends of social benefit cases that could be non-compliant with the applicable legislation.</p> <p>Key Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Automates detection and prioritisation of cases identified as potentially fraudulent. - Utilises larger and more diverse datasets to train AI solutions with the ability to adapt to the ever-evolving tactics employed by social benefit fraudsters. - Enables faster, more accurate case analysis and investigations. |
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| | | <p>- Reduces time, cost, and manual workload involved in case analysis and investigations.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Unemployment Aid Award Process</u></p> <p>The Ministry for Social Policy and Children’s Rights is actively advancing its digitisation agenda to improve the efficiency and accessibility of the Unemployment Aid award process. As part of this initiative, the Ministry intends to collaborate with Jobsplus to broaden the scope of registration under Part I of the Unemployment Register. This enhancement will include the integration of a consent declaration during the registration process, enabling the evaluation of potential eligibility for Unemployment Assistance in addition to the existing Unemployment Benefit. A key component of this effort is the digitalisation of the Social Security Number registration process, which will further streamline service delivery and strengthen administrative coordination.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Emergency Management System</u></p> <p>This system incorporates a foundational layer known as 112, which functions as the initial Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Leveraging principles of Artificial Intelligence, it retrieves caller data and location information from the Mobile Network Operator’s (MNO) database, thereby ensuring accurate and secure information delivery to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) call handlers. Once initial data is processed, calls are routed to the appropriate Emergency Response Organisations (EROs), including the Emergency Department, Civil Protection</p> |
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| | | <p>Department, Police Department, and the Armed Forces of Malta. AI-driven decision-support tools further enhance operational efficiency by facilitating resource dispatch and providing real-time navigation routes via tablets installed in emergency vehicles. This integrated approach significantly improves response times and overall effectiveness within the EMS framework.</p> |
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| | | <p><u>Corporate Electronic Document Management System</u></p> <p>Beyond the preservation of the Public Service’s collective knowledge, it is essential to modernise the methods by which documents are created, processed, and stored. The current reliance on paper-based and file-centric systems is being actively phased out in favour of a more collaborative, secure, and efficient digital framework. Following the successful completion of a pilot initiative, efforts are underway to implement an electronic document management system across the wider Public Service. This modernised system will encompass all forms of communication—including email and surface mail—and will manage the entire lifecycle of a document, from its creation within official government channels to its eventual transfer to the national archives in accordance with established retention policies. The effectiveness of this transformation will depend on the adoption of documented and automated procedures, thereby reducing reliance on tacit organisational knowledge and enhancing consistency, transparency, and accountability in public administration.</p> |
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| <p>Contributing to the green transition</p> | <p>(h) ensuring that digital infrastructure and technologies, including their supply chains, become more sustainable, resilient, and energy- and resource-efficient, with a view to minimising their negative environmental and social impact, and contributing to a sustainable circular and climate-neutral economy and society in line with the European Green Deal, including by promoting research and innovation which contribute to that end and by developing methodologies for measuring the energy and resource efficiency of the digital space.</p> <p>(j) ensuring that all policies and programmes which are relevant to achieving the digital targets set out in Article 4 are taken into account in a coordinated and coherent way to fully contribute to the European green and digital transition, while avoiding overlaps and minimising administrative burdens.</p> | <p><u>Malta Sustainable Development Strategy for 2050</u></p> <p>The strategy provides a long-term framework to guide the environmental stewardship and socio-economic advancement of the Maltese Islands. It sets out strategic priorities aimed at ensuring balanced and integrated development, with a focus on safeguarding natural resources while promoting inclusive and resilient growth.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Malta National Reform Programme</u></p> <p>This programme is designed to implement long-term national pillars in strategic domains such as environmental sustainability and the digital economy. Its overarching objective is to enhance quality of life by promoting the efficient and responsible use of resources. Through targeted initiatives and cross-sectoral collaboration, the programme aims to foster innovation, resilience, and inclusive growth, while aligning with Malta’s broader development goals and international commitments.</p> <hr/> <p><u>National Strategy for Research and Innovation in Energy and Water 2021-2030</u></p> <p>The strategy is designed to guide and accelerate research and innovation within Malta’s energy and water sectors over the coming decade. By aligning scientific and technological efforts with national policy objectives, and fostering collaboration among key stakeholders, the strategy aims to address sector-specific challenges, enhance</p> |
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| | | <p>competitiveness, and promote sustainable development.</p> <p>It places particular emphasis on applied research and multidisciplinary approaches, and introduces a dedicated coordination platform – Platform-RINEW – to optimise resource utilisation, encourage cross-sectoral collaboration, and deliver measurable impacts across energy, water, and related domains.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Agrihub Project</u></p> <p>The Agricultural Research and Innovation Hub (AgriHub) project is designed to transform precision farming in Malta through the integration of smart technologies and artificial intelligence. By establishing a dedicated research and innovation hub at Għammieri, the initiative aims to equip farmers with tailored field management recommendations based on real-time data, including soil conditions, weather forecasts, and pest activity. These recommendations will be further refined to reflect the unique characteristics and regulatory requirements of individual farms.</p> <p>The project incorporates advanced tools such as Smart Traps and Soil Moisture Sensors, which, when combined with meteorological data, land attributes, and satellite imagery, enable the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights (MAFA) to deliver optimised guidance on irrigation and pest control. This data-driven approach is expected to enhance agricultural efficiency and sustainability. The project is scheduled for completion by May 2024, with a potential extension</p> |
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| | | <p>into December 2024 or the first quarter of 2025.</p> |
| | | <p><u>Digitisation of the Energy Industry</u></p> <p>This transformation will be propelled by advancements in renewable energy generation and the global shift towards cleaner energy sources. In anticipation of increased energy demand and the growing adoption of electric vehicles – supported by enhanced battery technologies and the expansion of charging infrastructure – Malta will require greater grid capacity and improved energy supply resilience. To effectively address these emerging challenges and capitalise on new opportunities, the utilities sector can harness the capabilities of artificial intelligence (AI). AI technologies offer the potential to automate manual processes, analyse data from diverse sources, optimise load distribution in real time, and enhance system maintenance and performance.</p> <p>Malta’s national utility providers – namely Enemalta, the Water Services Corporation, and ARMS – are accumulating substantial volumes of structured and unstructured data. However, the scale and complexity of this data present limitations for traditional database and software solutions. To overcome these constraints, the deployment of machine learning algorithms on high-performance computing platforms, whether locally hosted or cloud-based, can significantly improve operational efficiency and enable faster, data-informed decision-making.</p> |

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| | | <p><u>LIFE16/IPE/MT000008 Action C.19 Smart Utilities AI Pilot Project</u></p> <p>The AI Smartutilities Pilot Project seeks to offer a single point of reference where domestic household can track and adapt behaviour based on their needs and overall consumption, through the live feed information of AI driven app, supplying consumers with live feed consumption of water and energy consumption per appliance to assist households make more conscientious and sustainable choices.</p> <p>To determine impact of the loggers and app on concurrent user and analyse overall trends over time. 2026 is the main year of catchment data for the Pilot, having concluded implementation work in September 2025.</p> |
| | | <p><u>Smart Waste Identification Systems</u></p> <p>Smart waste identification systems integrate multiple AI-driven technologies to optimise waste management and urban cleanliness. AI-enabled bins in urban areas feature waste compaction (1:8 ratio), real-time fill-level sensors, and predictive alerts to CMD’s customer care, with future plans for route optimisation. AI-powered drones complement this by detecting litter and illegal dumping, classifying waste types such as plastic, metal, and glass, and providing GPS-based geolocation for cleanup crews, while ensuring privacy through masking individuals in footage. Vehicle-mounted AI cameras monitor roads and surroundings to identify illegal dumping, potholes, and damaged infrastructure, enabling live reporting and automated</p> |

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| | | routing to operations teams. Additionally, AI-enabled CCTV systems automatically recognise hazardous, recyclable, and organic waste types and track flows for optimised sorting and reporting, creating a comprehensive, intelligent framework for sustainable waste management. |
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Section 6: EU level cooperation

6.1. Multi-Country projects

Multi-Country projects included in the list of areas of activity for MCP in the Annex of the Decision, to which the Member State is committing or plans to commit in the future:

| Name of the MCP | Short description of the MCP |
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| <p>Alliance for Language Technologies (ALT-EDIC)</p> | <p>Malta is among the eight observing Member States participating in the Alliance for Language Technologies (ALT), which was proposed in December 2023 and formally established as one of the first European Digital Infrastructure Consortia (EDICs) in February 2024. The ALT-EDIC represents a multi-country initiative coordinated by France, aimed at developing a shared European infrastructure for language technologies.</p> <p>As an observing country, Malta contributes to the strategic objectives of ALT-EDIC, which include the consolidation of multilingual and multimodal language data across Member States, the development and fine-tuning of Large Language Models (LLMs), and the promotion of linguistic diversity and technological excellence within the European Union. This participation aligns with Malta's broader commitment to the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 and reinforces its role in advancing digital</p> |

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| | innovation and cultural preservation at the European level. |
| Q-Europe | <p>During the initial phases of Q-EUROPE's implementation, Malta will provide both financial and in-kind support to its national EuroQCI initiative, PRISM. Given the strategic alignment between Q-EUROPE and EuroQCI, financial contributions to PRISM will inherently support the broader objectives of both programmes.</p> <p>From mid-2025 onwards, Malta will explore sustainable mechanisms to ensure the continued operation of its Quantum Communication Infrastructure (QCI). These may include the introduction of access fees for public-sector entities utilising the infrastructure, the deployment of dedicated fibre-optic connections, and other operational models.</p> <p>In addition to financial support, Malta also intends to contribute in-kind resources to Q-EUROPE. This will include products, services, and access to national infrastructure developed through domestic investment in the Maltese QCI. Furthermore, personnel from national entities such as MITA, engaged in training and deployment activities, will be considered part of Malta's in-kind contribution to the consortium.</p> |
| Innovative Massive Public Administration inter-Connected Transformation Services | Malta has shown interest in being involved as an observer on the EDIC, which aims to develop a new |

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| | generation of advanced cross-border services. |
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Section 7: Stakeholder feedback

A comprehensive consultation strategy was implemented to actively engage all pertinent public stakeholders as well as representatives from the private sector. The objective was to promote inclusivity and gather a wide range of perspectives, insights, and feedback on the roadmap, including its proposed trajectories and measures.

The consultation process was structured to provide stakeholders with meaningful opportunities to express their views, raise concerns, and offer recommendations. In-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders who possessed unique insights or held significant influence over the roadmap. These interviews facilitated detailed discussions, allowing for a deeper understanding of stakeholder expectations and concerns.

The consultation exercise encompassed a broad and diverse spectrum of stakeholders, including but not limited to:

- Private Sector:
 - Industry associations and chambers of commerce
 - Academic institutions
 - Private individuals representing the private sector in tech/software development
- Public Sector:
 - Government officials and representatives from relevant ministries, directorates, and units
 - Local authorities, agencies, registries, councils, and foundations

Full list of stakeholders:

- Tech.mt
- Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA)
- Jobsplus
- Malta Communications Authority (MCA)
- Malta Enterprise (ME)
- Malta Business Registry (MBR)
- University of Malta
- servizz.gov Agency

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- Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA)
- Business 1st
- National Statistics Office (NSO)
- Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry
- The Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology (MCAST)
- National Skills Council
- Identità
- Chamber of SMEs
- Gaming Foundation (GAMF)
- Malta Government Venture Capital Limited
- Malta Development Bank
- Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA)
- Xjenza Malta
- The Offices of Ministry Chief Information Officers (CIOs)

The stakeholder consultation process was a cornerstone in the development of the definitive Digital Decade Roadmap, ensuring its robustness, national applicability, and enduring relevance. The feedback received from a diverse and comprehensive cross-section of participants—encompassing governmental ministries, key public entities, academic institutions, industry representatives, and civil society organizations—was deemed exceptionally valuable. This broad and multi-faceted engagement provided essential external perspectives that were critical for validating the document’s foundational assumptions, operational structure, and intended national impact.

The input gathered during the intensive consultation period crystallized around several key thematic areas that required rigorous refinement. A primary focus was the detailed scrutiny of the agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); stakeholders offered constructive critiques concerning the granularity, measurability, and timeliness of these indicators, ensuring they accurately reflect nuanced national progress rather than solely relying on generic benchmarks. Significant attention was also dedicated to the measurement methodologies underpinning the KPIs, with expert groups proposing more sophisticated and robust data collection and reporting practices to ensure the long-term reliability and integrity of the monitoring framework. Furthermore, stakeholders collectively reinforced the importance of ensuring the Roadmap's objectives maintained acute relevance within the national economic and social context, suggesting

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modifications to better account for local infrastructural needs, cultural adoption rates, and specific workforce skills gaps.

This consultative feedback played a pivotal and instrumental role in shaping the final iteration of the Roadmap. The input led directly to the refining of core objectives, transitioning certain initial broad goals into more focused, outcome-oriented targets that are both ambitious and realistically achievable. Crucially, the process influenced the definitive determination of applicable measures, including the strategic removal of elements that fell outside the scope of public initiatives (such as specific private-sector driven measures) and the addition of necessary new enablers. These new measures were strategically introduced to address emerging national priorities, particularly those aimed at accelerating AI adoption, cloud deployment, and the enhancement of key digital public services. These adjustments, informed by authoritative sectoral knowledge and operational realities, ensured the measures were both practical and engineered for maximal impact.

Ultimately, the comprehensive and rigorous execution of the consultation process fostered a profound sense of shared ownership and collective commitment among all participants. Their detailed and insightful inputs have been paramount in delivering a holistic and robust Roadmap that is not only strategically aligned with the ambitious targets of the Digital Decade Policy Programme but is also uniquely tailored to Malta's specific national development trajectory, thereby significantly enhancing its efficacy and guaranteeing a higher probability of successful implementation.

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Section 8: Overall impact and conclusion

The Digital Decade Roadmap, operating in conjunction with the Malta Digital Strategy, serves as the pivotal instrument for accelerating the nation's digital transformation across its economy and society. This forward-looking strategic document encompasses **89** specific measures designed to fulfil the digital targets established by the Digital Decade Policy Programme (DDPP). The cumulative impact of these measures is squarely focused on achieving four key transformation objectives: narrowing the digital divide, facilitating the comprehensive digitalization of businesses, enhancing the digital upskilling of Malta's current and future workforce, and sustaining Malta's strong position in digital public services. Malta is firmly committed to aligning its national targets and trajectories with those of the European Union, aspiring not merely to meet but in many instances to exceed the set goals, thereby ensuring that its performance remains superior to that of most other Member States.

To support this ambition, substantial national and EU funding has been strategically allocated across all targets within the roadmap. It must be noted, however, that these investment allocations are not exhaustive, as they currently do not factor in capital contributions from private stakeholders or general public investments. Given the scope, the roadmap is inherently a dynamic document. Its effective implementation necessitates continuous monitoring, periodic policy adjustments, and necessary legislative review. Furthermore, continuous discussions with a diverse range of stakeholders are essential for tracking trajectories, ensuring the effective implementation of existing measures, and identifying necessary new measures throughout the coming years.

The roadmap is fundamentally structured to generate positive and equitable effects across all societal groups, encompassing citizens, businesses, and communities alike, with a core focus on proactively addressing disparities and inequalities. Its long-term success is ultimately predicated upon regular review cycles and critical updates that rigorously account for rapid technological progress, long-term sustainability goals, and broad economic, social, and cultural impacts.