



**MSA**



## Press Release

16<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

### **ESF.PA4.0077 A Development Training Programme for the NSO**

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Today the National Statistics Office has officially launched a training programme specifically tailored to the needs of the organisation to upgrade its skills capacity as expressed in Axiom 4 of the Operational Programme II for 2014-2020: Building the institutional administrative capacity.

The Malta Statistics Authority applied for funding towards the end of 2017 and the project was awarded in 2018. The positive outcome was due to the work of a dedicated team from within the organisation, who were helped and supported by MEUSAC (The Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee) and by the Planning and Co-ordination Policy Division (PPCD).

The funds dedicated to '*ESF.PA4.0077 A Development Training Programme for the NSO*', amount to over €350,000 which is co-funded through European Structural Funds (80%) and National Funds (20%). The training will take various forms, from class-style approaches, to on-the-job training and foreign exchange visits in collaboration with National Statistical Institutes within the European Statistical System. Furthermore, the training programme was designed so that it can reinforce the modernisation process being adopted by the NSO. The overarching goals of the training programme should result in a better skilled workforce able to continue to deliver official statistics encompassing all areas of society to support the decision making processes at both micro and macro levels.

The press launch was addressed by the Chairman of the Malta Statistics Authority, Prof. Albert Leone Ganado who emphasised the need to improve the technical and soft skills of all staff in line with the professional and institutional needs of the organisation.

The Acting Director General, Mr Etienne Caruana focused on the direct outcomes of the project and how all vertical and horizontal domains will benefit from training to improve business processes and hence increase the organisation's efficiency and effectiveness. The ultimate goal is to deliver official statistics which are more timely and of improved quality.

The Parliamentary Secretary for EU Funds and Social Dialogue, Dr Aaron Farrugia, provided a detailed overview how ESF funds are being used within the Civil Service to improve the status of the Public Administration.

The Minister for Finance, Hon Prof Edward Scicluna shared his experiences on the evolution and modernisation of the National Statistics Office and also emphasised on the need for improvement in a number of areas in economic statistics. He also specified that such projects bring together professionals from various institutions from across the island and expressed his hope that such interaction will continue in the future.



Operational Programme II – European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020  
*"Investing in human capital to create more opportunities and promote the well-being of society"*

Project part-financed by the European Social Fund  
Co-financing rate: 80% European Union; 20% National Funds

