


Financing adult learning database

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| Name of the instrument - Local language | Training Aid Framework (TAF) |
| Name of the instrument - English translation | Training Aid Framework (TAF) |
| Scheme ID | 158 |
| Country |  Malta |
| Reporting year | 2015 |
| Type of instrument | Grant for companies |
| Type of entry | Single instrument |
| Short description | All kinds of companies including partnerships, self-employed persons, family businesses, associations or other bodies, whether vested with legal personality or not, can apply for the grant to cover their training expenses. The public co-funding share depends on a company size and ranges between 50% and 70% (preferential treatment is given to smaller entities). |
| Short description of the related instruments | nap |
| Level of operation | National |
| Name of a part of the country | nap |
| Name of the region (for regional instruments) | nap |
| Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments) | nap |
| Relevance | Key scheme |
| Legal basis | The scheme is in line with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU (General Block Exemption Regulation). |
| Objective(s) and target(s) | To promote access to training of persons actively participating in the Maltese labour market: increasing |

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| | and/or improving the skills of persons currently in employment; enabling the beneficiaries to become more productive and competitive through the development of skills, knowledge and competence. |
| Year of implementation | 2015 |
| Year of latest amendment | 2015 |
| Year of termination | 2025 |
| Operation/management | <p>The overall responsibility for the management and implementation of the TAF2 is of the Employment and Training Corporation (ETC), designated Intermediate Body (IB). The responsibilities of the IB amongst others include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) wide dissemination of the aid scheme including promotions through various forms of media b) provision of information to potential beneficiaries c) receipt of TAF applications d) presiding over the evaluation process e) entering into a grant agreement with eligible applicants f) monitoring the implementation of operations under the scheme g) carrying out documentary and physical on the spot check h) initiating the payment process in the Structural Funds Database 2007-13. |
| Eligible group(s) | <p>All enterprises, including partnerships, companies, self-employed persons, family businesses, associations or other bodies, whether vested with legal personality or not, having an economic activity.</p> <p>The trainee needs to be formally employed with the beneficiary during the training period and must be participating in an eligible training programme.</p> |
| Group(s) with preferential treatment | Micro, small and medium size enterprises |
| Education and training eligible | <p>any type of education and training sector/company specific and transferable internal and external in Malta or abroad through distance learning</p> <p>Aid shall not be granted for training which beneficiaries carry out to comply with National Mandatory Standards on training. Furthermore Information Sessions and Team Building events are not eligible under the TAF2 since these are not considered as training. Apprentices or students engaged in vocational training with an apprenticeship or vocational training contract are not eligible either.</p> |
| Source of financing and collection mechanism | ESF, State matching: employer |
| Financing formula and allocation mechanisms | <p>Funds under the scheme are subject to a total budget of EUR 2 500 000.</p> <p>The size of a company determines the level of support:</p> |

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| | <p>large companies: 50% of eligible costs, medium: 60%, small or micro: 70%.</p> <p>No upper limit for the amount of aid, although restrictions apply to the amount of travel and proportion of trainer costs that can be claimed from the fund.</p> <p>Allocation: reimbursement principle; the grants are allocated to the eligible applicants on first-come, first-served basis.</p> |
| Eligible costs | Fees and other costs related to education and training, personnel absence costs. |
| Volumes of funding | Funds under the scheme are subject to a total budget of EUR 1 993 142 in 2013. |
| Beneficiaries/take up | na |
| Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation | The overall responsibility for the management and implementation of the TAF is of the ETC. ETC is the designated Intermediate Body (IB) for the implementation of the TAF2. |
| Monitoring/evaluation reports available | na |
| Most relevant webpage - in English | http://icemalta.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/TAF_2_Guidance_Notes_Updated.pdf |
| Most relevant webpage - local language | https://secure.etc.gov.mt/homedir/temp/ETCAAnnualReport_2013.pdf |
| Recent changes | TAF2 is 'the training aid framework for the first half of 2015'. It is a re-design of the original TAF initiative with the argument that 'it's re-designed to pay out fast'. However there has been a reduction in the percentage of eligible costs reimbursed. |
| Sources | http://icemalta.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/TAF_2_Guidance_Notes_Updated.pdf http://icemalta.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/TAF-Leaflet.pdf http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/FinancingAdultLearning/DisplayCountryDetail.aspx?Country=MT http://etc.gov.mt/Resources/file/Training%20Aid%20Framework/TAF_Guidelines.pdf |