



Press Release

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Parliamentary Secretary Ian Borg announces the launch of two additional grant schemes with a budget of €6 million, as part of the Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes initiative

Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency 2017 and EU Funds Ian Borg announced the launch of a further two schemes under the Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes initiative; the E-Commerce Grant Scheme and the SME Consultancy Services Grant Scheme.

The two schemes address priority areas under Operational Programme Operational Programme I Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 '*Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges*'.

Parliamentary Secretary Borg stated that e-Commerce represents an opportunity for businesses to exploit their potential to increase their market share and reach new markets by considering incorporating online selling.

At a time when local SMEs are still transitioning to e-commerce, the e-Commerce Grant Scheme, with a €5 million budget, will support SMEs through a maximum grant of €5,000 to develop an e-commerce website and/or a mobile application, with part-financing eligible expenditure up to 50%. This Scheme falls under Priority Axis 2 '*Consolidating investment within the ICT sector*'.

Parliamentary Secretary Borg explained that the SME Consultancy Services Grant Scheme, with a budget of €1 million, will support SMEs through the provision of a maximum grant of €4,000 and is aimed at facilitating SMEs' access to consultancy services to develop Business Plans, Feasibility Studies, Process and Systems Reviews and Organisation and Operations Reviews. This initiative falls under Priority Axis 3 '*Enhancing Malta's competitiveness through investment in SMEs*'

These identified schemes will be managed on a demand-driven basis through an open rolling-call, and will be open to receive project proposals as from Thursday, 10 November 2016.

Borg concluded his speech by stating that the launch of these two schemes under the Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes which are administered and managed by the Measures and Support Division within the Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto with a total of €31 million in assistance to SMEs. Parliamentary Secretary Borg thanked the MCA and GRTU for their collaboration towards the development of this scheme.

Attachments: photo

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