

Four organisations benefit from EU funds through MEUSAC's assistance

MEUSAC awarded EU funds to enhance social dialogue

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MEUSAC has assisted another four organisations to benefit from EU funds, adding to the long list of beneficiaries it has supported since November 2008.

The organisations who benefited from the funds this time around are the GRTU – Malta Chamber of SMEs, the Scout Association of Malta, the Band Clubs Association and the Birkirkara Badminton Club.

MEUSAC supports NGOs, local councils and government entities in the EU funding application process for projects the applicants intend implementing. In fact, since 2008, MEUSAC has helped organisations garner almost €40 million in EU funds, seeing no less than 363 projects being implemented.

During a news conference at MEUSAC's office, Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds and Social Dialogue Dr Aaron Farrugia said that it is "positive" organisations benefited from €40 million in EU funds since 2008 through MEUSAC's assistance. He thanked MEUSAC for its sterling work in this regard and spoke of the synergy between the various Managing Authorities and MEUSAC, now that such entities form part of the same Ministry.

The news conference also served as an opportunity for the four organisations to speak of the challenges they encounter when applying for EU funds.

While all four organisations lauded MEUSAC's help, which is offered for free, most agreed that the process to garner funds needed to be further simplified. One representative described how MEUSAC is "there to help and not to create problems".

Dr Farrugia pointed out that while ways to simplify the process were on the cards, it was vital that stringent rules were in place where funds were concerned.

"In the event organisations did not adhere to such rules imposed by the EU when awarded such funds, it would be to the detriment of the organisations that garner the funds," he explained. In other words the organisation concerned would have to repay the funds back the minute any rules are breached.

MEUSAC Head Dr Vanni Xuereb urged beneficiaries to tell other organisations of the assistance MEUSAC offers, since "nobody could do it better than those who successfully sought MEUSAC's help in this regard".

He announced that this year, MEUSAC has been awarded €134,000 in an ESF (European Social Fund) project which aims to enhance social dialogue.

Applying for funds through MEUSAC

Applying for funds is a lengthy process. MEUSAC can assist in the application process, including the drafting of the project's proposals. It is of pertinent importance for potential applicants to be aware of the fact that in order to be considered for the funds, applicants must satisfy the programme's priorities.

For more information or to set up an appointment to apply for the above-mentioned call, contact MEUSAC on funding.meusac@gov.mt or call 2200 3300.