

Malta



Reference	EGF/2007/008
Member State	Malta
Sector	Wearing apparel
Submitted to European Commission	12 September 2007
Total expenditure	EUR 637 841
EGF contribution	EUR 318 920,5
Intervention criterion	Article 2(c) 'small labour market' Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006
Period of implementation	From 26 June 1997 until 11 September 2008
Redundancies during period of reference	675 redundancies: 562 in VF (Malta) Ltd. and 113 in Bortex Clothing Ind.Co. Ltd
Active employment measures	Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - occupational guidance, - training/re-training, - aid for self-employment (Start Up grant scheme), - job-search allowance - wage subsidy schemes.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNT/GOOD PRACTICES

Of the 671 workers who actually benefitted from the EGF support at the end of the implementation, period 440 (or 65,6 %) had found stable employment, including 24 who created their own business, 80 (or 11,9 %) were still unemployed and the remaining 152 workers were inactive either because they were engaged in training or in education or not registered for work any longer.

According to the Maltese authorities the EGF intervention has made it possible to assist the affected workers in a more personalised manner and to facilitate their re-integration in the labour market. Consequently, it has also alleviated social and economic difficulties which the workers would have otherwise faced.

Malta felt that the occupational guidance was very useful, as it enabled many of the affected workers who were not aware of job opportunities in other sectors to consider employment outside the textiles sector. As most of the affected workers had limited transferable skills, the use of the wage subsidy scheme encouraged employers to provide job opportunities to the affected workers. The use of the Start-Up grant scheme is also considered as an achievement, in particular taking into account that most of the beneficiaries were machine operators with no intention to start their own business prior to becoming redundant.

Malta considers that a one year implementation period is too short.