



ACTIVE AGEING IN ACTION -

**FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE THROUGH
INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION**





Hon. Mr Jo Etienne Abela

Minister for Health and Active Ageing





Hon. Dr Malcom Paul Agius Galea
Parliamentary Secretary for Active Ageing

Dr Renzo De Gabriele

Permanent Secretary for Health and Active Ageing



Direttorat għall-Istrateġija u Sappport

Stephanie Kent



Funzjoni tad-Direttorat

- 🔄 Koordinament tal-Uffiċju tas-Segretarju Permanenti
- 🔄 Miżuri tal-Manifest Elettorali
- 🔄 Miżuri tal-Baġit
- 🔄 Każijiet tal-Ombudsman
- 🔄 Talbiet għall-Aċċess għall-Informazzjoni (FOI)
- 🔄 Protezzjoni tad-Data
- 🔄 Mistoqsijiet Parlamentari
- 🔄 Marketing Fora u EXPO tas-Servizz Pubbliku
- 🔄 Teknoloġija tal-Informazzjoni
- 🔄 Ilmenti



Twettqu b'suċċess

1. Ninkoraġġixxu l-anzjanità attiva.
2. Inwessgħu u noffru aktar servizzi ġerjatriċi fid-djar tal-anzjani.
3. Għajjnuna finanzjarja biex l-anzjani jagħmlu xogħlijiet fuq il-proprjetà minħabba mobbilità.
4. Inkopru l-ispiza kollha tat-Telecare+.
5. Noħolqu programm ta' edukazzjoni intergenerazzjonali.
6. Sapport psikoloġiku għal dawk li jormlu.
7. Titjieb il-kwalità tal-ħajja fost l-anzjani bid-dimensja.
8. Inkomplu bl-investiment fid-djar tal-anzjani tal-Gvern u SVP.
9. Ngħollu l-ammont tad-dħul mhux intaxxat għall-anzjani li jħallsu biex joqogħdu fi djar għall-kura tal-anzjani privati.
10. Jitwaqqaf direttorat responsabbli mid-dimensja.
11. Taħriġ speċjalizzat lill-ewwel persuni li jiġu f'kuntatt ma' persuni bid-dimensja.

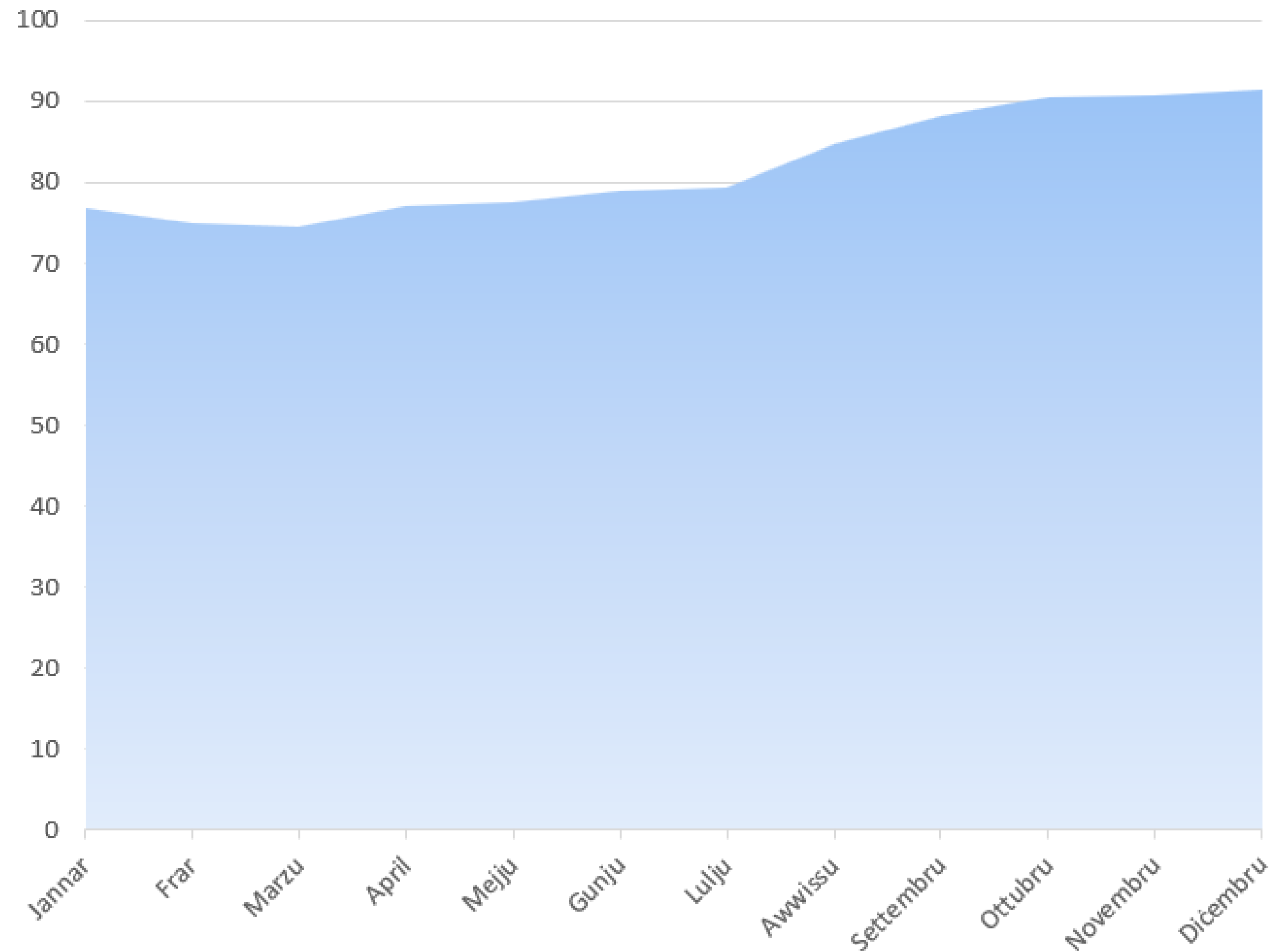


Stadju t'Implimentazzjoni

1. Internet b'xejn għall-anzjani
2. Għajnuna lill-anzjani li jimpjegaw carer magħhom
3. Jibda l-bini fuq żewġt idjar godda
4. Nesigu ż-żamma tal-ogħla standards fid-djar tal-anzjani
5. Għajnuna akbar lill-persuni bid-dimensja u l-familji tagħhom



Mizuri tal-Manifest Elettorali



Rata ta'
Implimentazzjoni
2025

91.46%

Mizuri tal-Baġit 2026

Anzjanità Attiva u Kura fil-Komunità

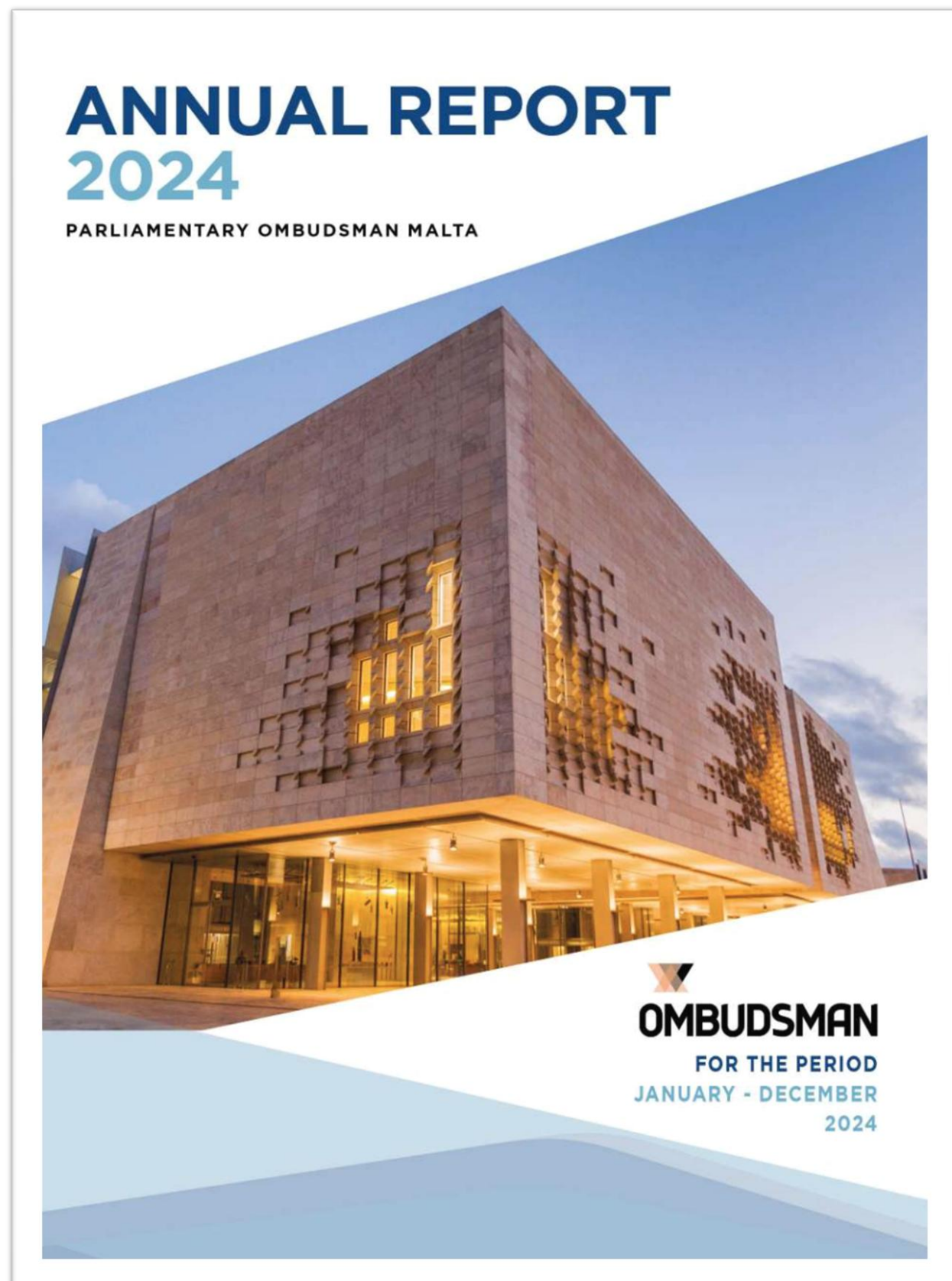
- Dar tal-Anzjani ġewwa Bormla
- Dar tal-Anzjani tal-Imsida
- Rinnovar u tisbiħ fid-dar residenzjali tal-anzjani Mosta
- Rinnovar u tisbiħ fid-dar residenzjali tal-anzjani l-Imtarfa
- Estiża l-iskema tas-sodod motorizzati u apparat ieħor
- Tkompli tigi implimentata l-istrategija l-ġdida tad-Dimensja
- Ċentru ġdid għall-persuni bid-dimensja ġewwa Tas-Sliema
- Tizzied ir-rata ta' sussidju tal-iskema Home Helper of Your Choice
- Żieda fl-iskema tal-Carer at Home
- Jinħoloq servizz ta' assessjar olistiku lil persuni dijabetiċi

Residenza San Vincenz De Paul

- Renal Unit
- MRI Scanner
- Sala Psikogerjatrika
- Tieni sular tal-Ispiżerija



Każijiet tal-Ombudsman



Natura tal-Każijiet

- Nuqqas ta' komunikazzjoni
- Trattament mhux ugwali
- Nuqqas ta' konformità ta' proċeduri
- Nuqqas ta' trasparenza
- Servizz inadegwat

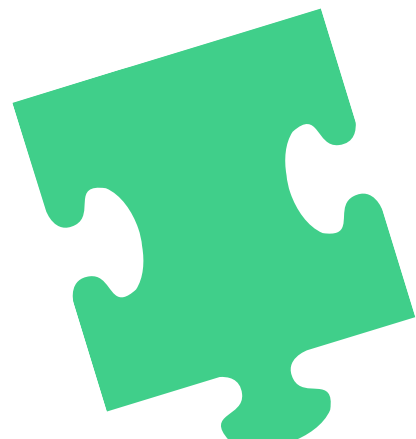
Mistoqsijiet Parlamentari



Mistoqsijiet dwar il-Libertà tal-Informazzjoni

Mistoqsijiet relatati ma' Protezzjoni tad-Data

Ilmenti u Suggerimenti



Marketing Fora u EXPO tas-Servizz Pubbliku

Strategija tas-Segretarju Permanenti Ewlieni
Promozzjoni tas-Servizzi

EXPO 2025

- Testijiet – 7,000
- Trasport mis-Silver T – 2,700 vjaġġ

EXPO 2026

- Test taz-Zokkor fid-demm
- Test tal-Pressjoni tad-demm
- Assessjar tal-Polz
- Test tal-Ossignu fid-demm
- Test tas-Saħħa fl-idejn u s-saqajn
- Servizz ta' trasport għall-Anzjani - Silver T



GRAZZI

From Policy to Practice

Implementation and Monitoring of Budgetary Measures



Diviżjoni
għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni

The Directorate



Diviżjoni
**għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni**



and to have evidence-based monitoring of the process.

Why?

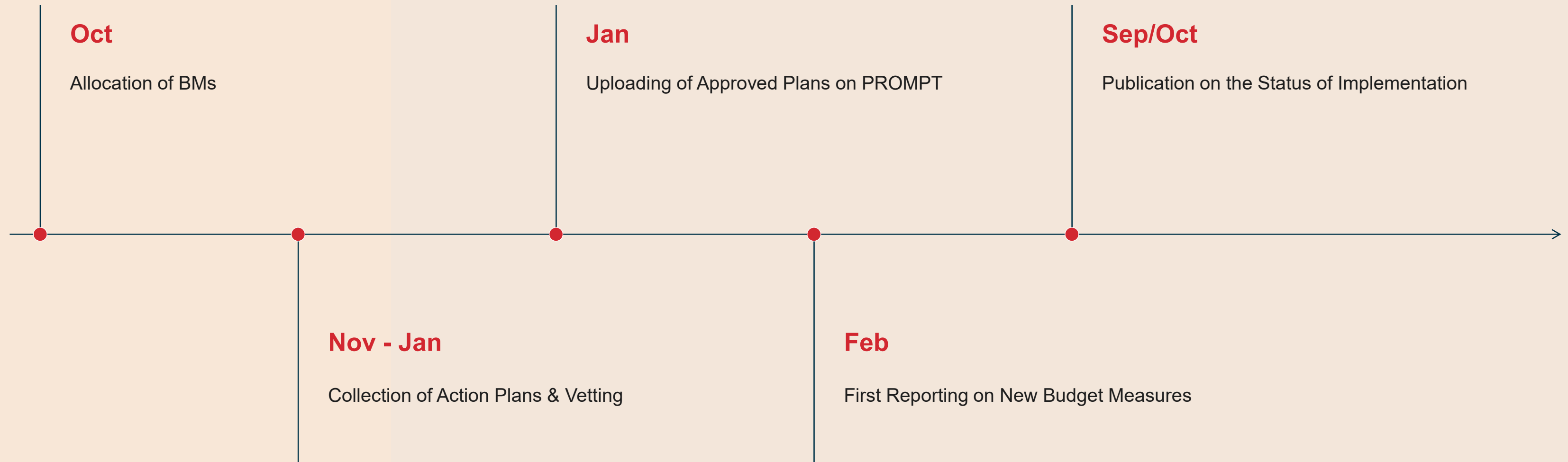
- Focused on the monitoring of the performance of the public administration
- Predictability and accountability
- Transparency
- Coordination



Diviżjoni
għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni



Timeline



Diviżjoni
**għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni**

Process: from Reporting to Evaluation



REPORTING



VETTING AT
MINISTRY LEVEL



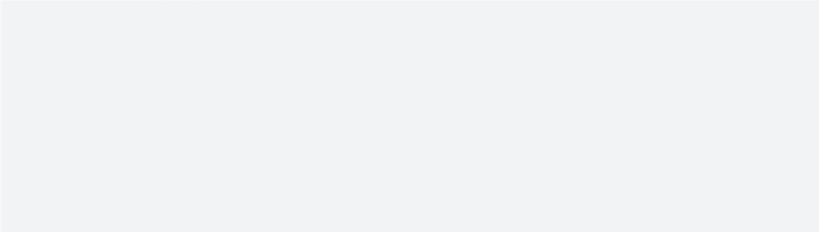
CREATION OF
CONSOLIDATED
REPORT



PERMANENT
SECRETARY'S
APPROVAL



EVALUATION



Process: from Reporting to Evaluation



Reporting

- Concise and comprehensive
- Actual work completed in the previous month on the sub-card being reported on
- Verbose is the basis of the justification of the progress percentage attributed
- Percentage progress from 1-100 of a deliverable should be justifiable according to the context of works completed within a specific sub card

Process: from Reporting to Evaluation



Vetting at Ministry Level

- Focal Point is to verify the reporting submitted by the Project Leader.
- Checks if the progress percentage attributed is justifiable against the report.
- Discuss with the Project Leader in case of divergent opinion
- Reject the report

Process: from Reporting to Evaluation



Creation of the Consolidated Report

- Focal Point is responsible in approving the submitted reports through the creation of the consolidated report
- Any other comment can be included in the automatic generated report
- Submission of the Consolidated Report to the respective Permanent Secretary

Process: from Reporting to Evaluation



Permanent Secretary's Approval

- Each Budgetary Measures within a Ministry falls under the responsibility of the respective Permanent Secretary
- Through the approval a Permanent Secretary is endorsing the progress report together with the verbose and the percentage of the whole measure
- Rejection of the consolidated report in case where there is disagreement with the report

Process: from Reporting to Evaluation



Evaluation

- Implementation Directorate reviews the submission of all measures each month
- Assess if the report when compared to the progress percentage is justifiable
- Assesses any risks and issues deriving from the report and escalate accordingly
- Determine the level of follow up required if applicable
- Reject in cases where the report does not tally with the progress percentage etc

Monthly Statistics

Monthly statistics are issued to the Principal Permanent Secretary and all Permanent Secretaries.



Diviżjoni
għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni

Global Perspective

Statistics & Analysis



Diviżjoni
**għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni**

Global Perspective

1833
**Total
Measures**

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026



Diviżjoni
għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni

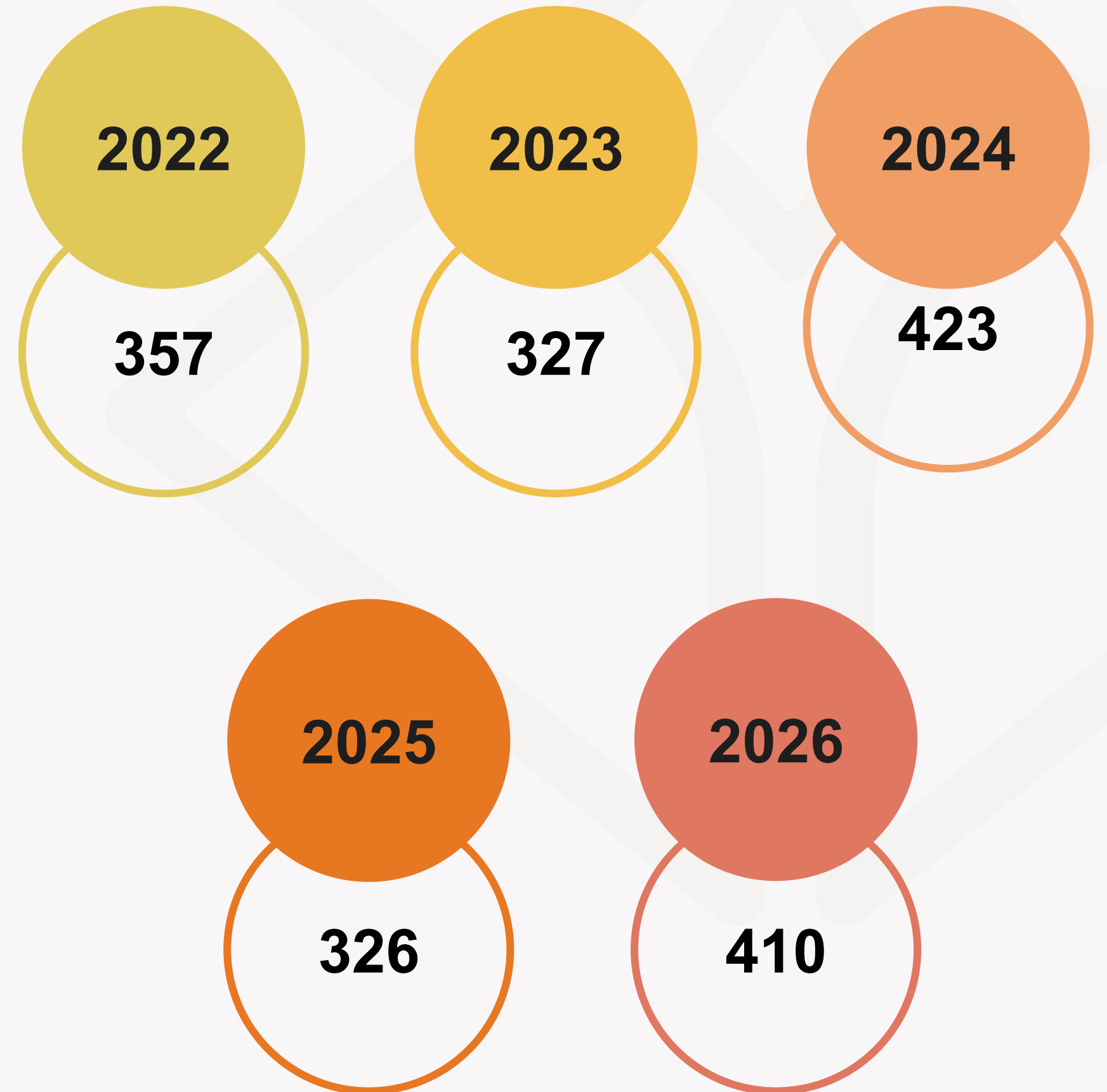
Global Perspective

1833

**Total
Measures**



Diviżjoni
għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni



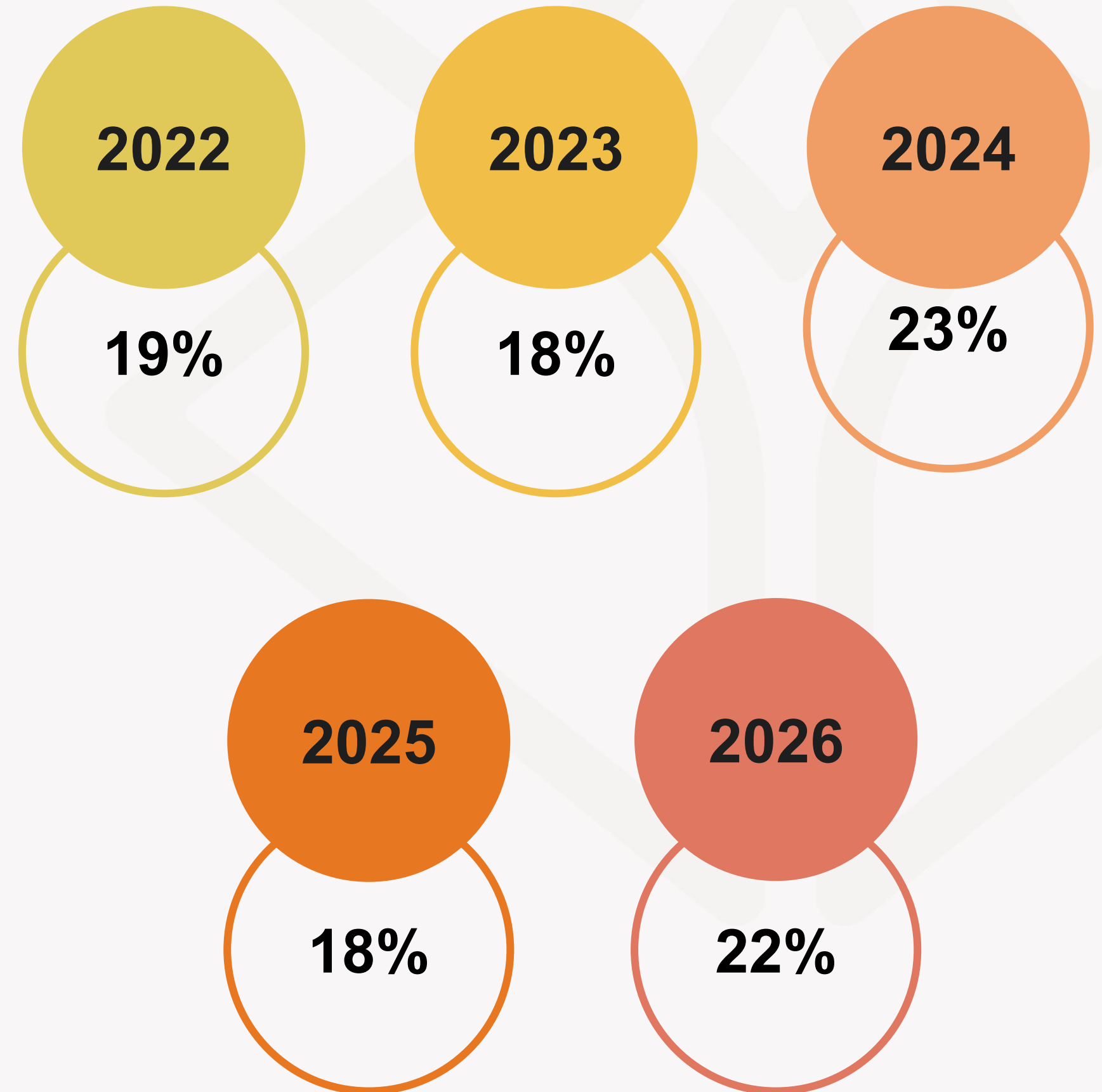
Global Perspective

1833

**Total
Measures**



Diviżjoni
għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni



Active Ageing
By Budget Year

44
2%



Diviżjoni
għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni

5

BMs
2022

6

BMs
2023

11

BMs
2024

12

BMs
2025

10

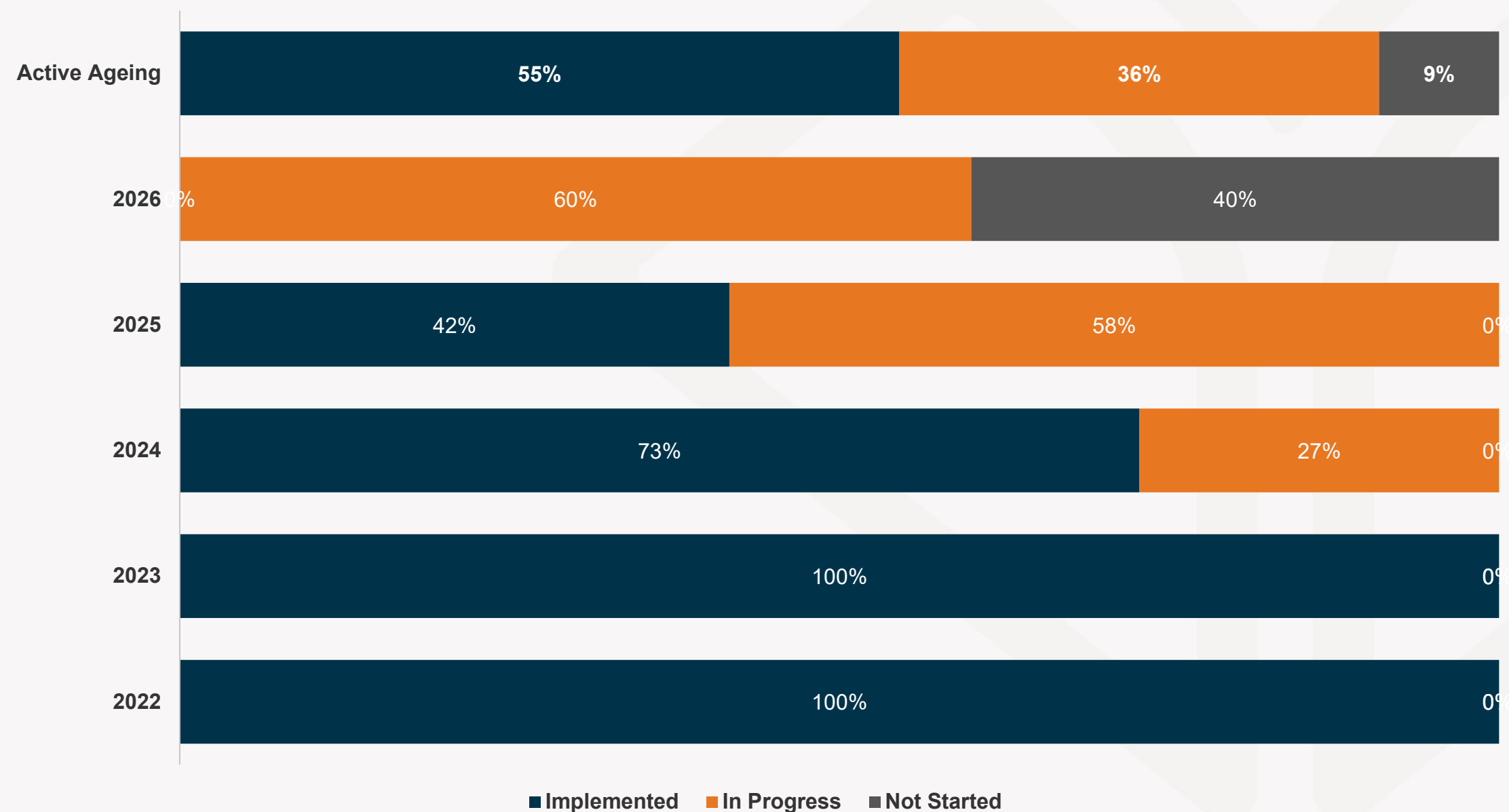
BMs
2026

24
Implemented

16
In Progress

4
Not Started

Budget Year by Status



Diviżjoni
għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni

RAG Active Ageing

11%

Red

02%

Amber

87%

Green



Diviżjoni
għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni

Programme of Implementation

40%

2025

8 Projects are
scheduled to be
implemented by 2025

2026

8 Projects are
scheduled to be
implemented by 2026

40%

10%

2027

2 Projects are
scheldued to be
implemented by 2027

2028

2 Projects are
scheduled to be
implemented by 2028

10%

Active Ageing Percentage Completion

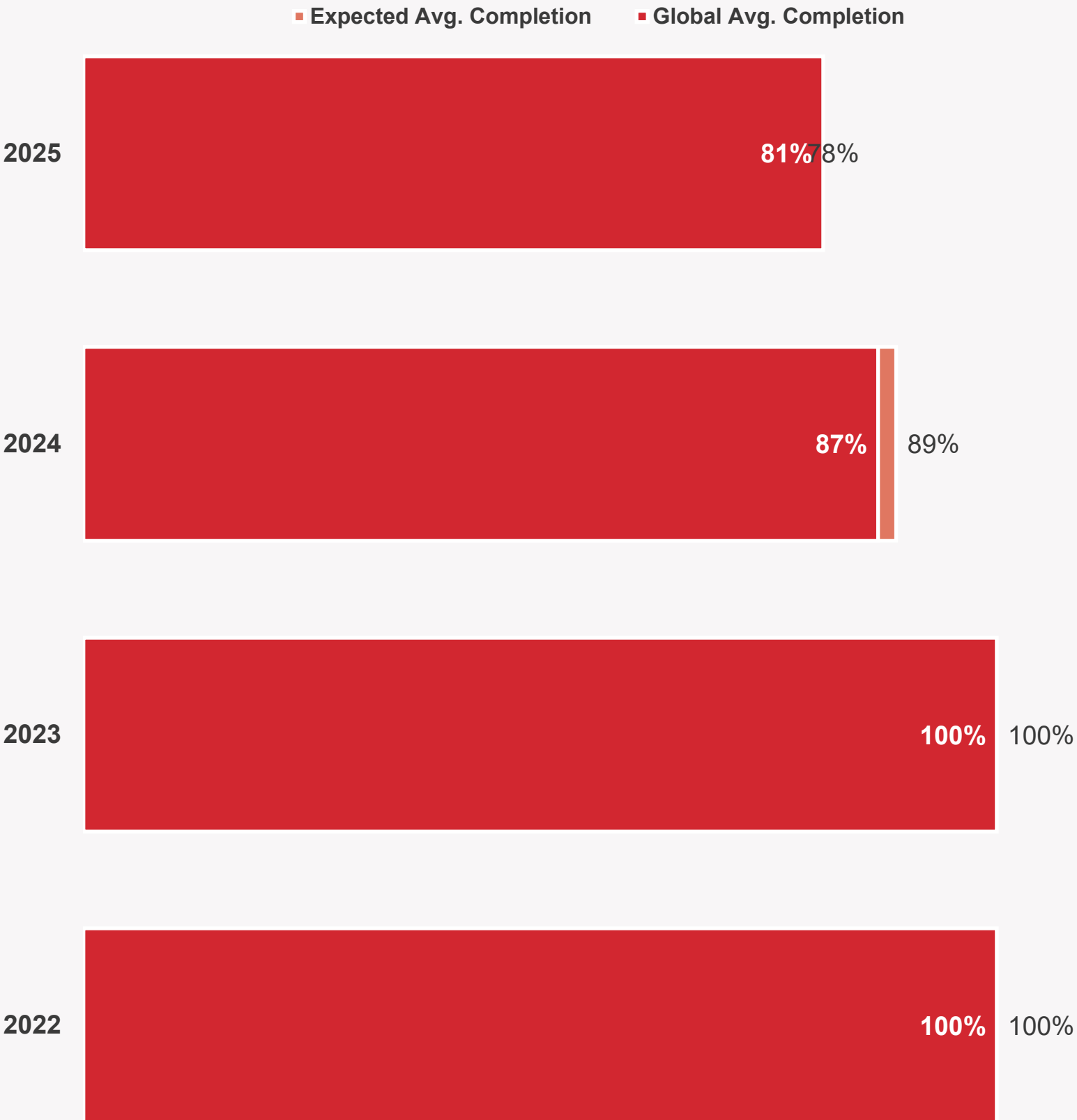
89%

89%

Expected Percentage Completion



Diviżjoni
għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni



Expected Progress
for 2026

Q1 2026

89%

Q2 2026

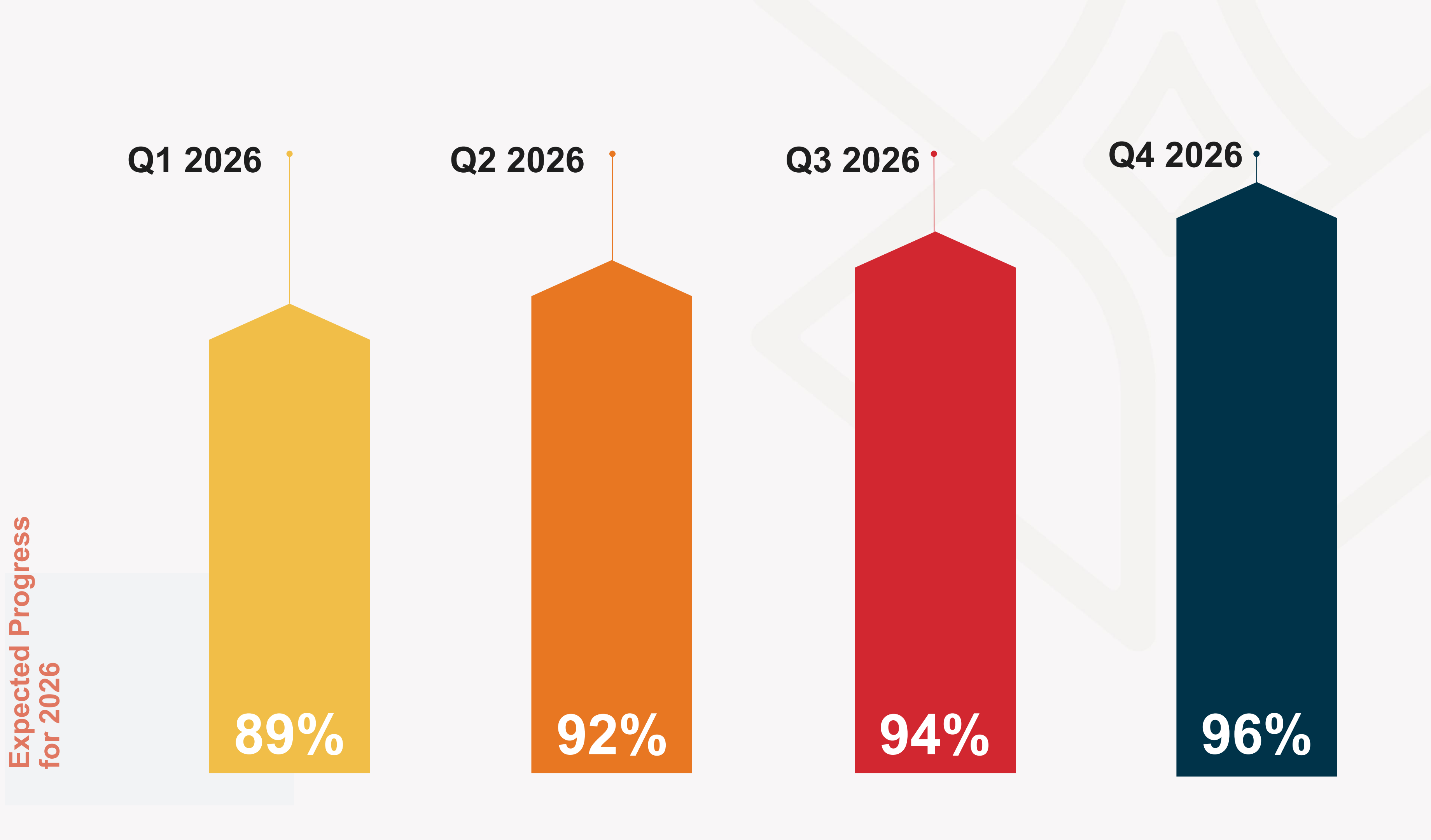
92%

Q3 2026

94%

Q4 2026

96%





Thank You

Aaron Abdilla
Director Projects Implementation

aaron.a.abdilla@gov.mt



Diviżjoni
**għall-Koordinazzjoni
u l-Implimentazzjoni**



Directorate Corporate Services

Michael Mizzi



Importance of Corporate Services

No project, programme or initiative can succeed without the twin pillars of:



Human Resources



Finance

These are the cornerstones of Corporate Services



Values

1

Time Frames

Clear expectations around when work needs to be completed by

2

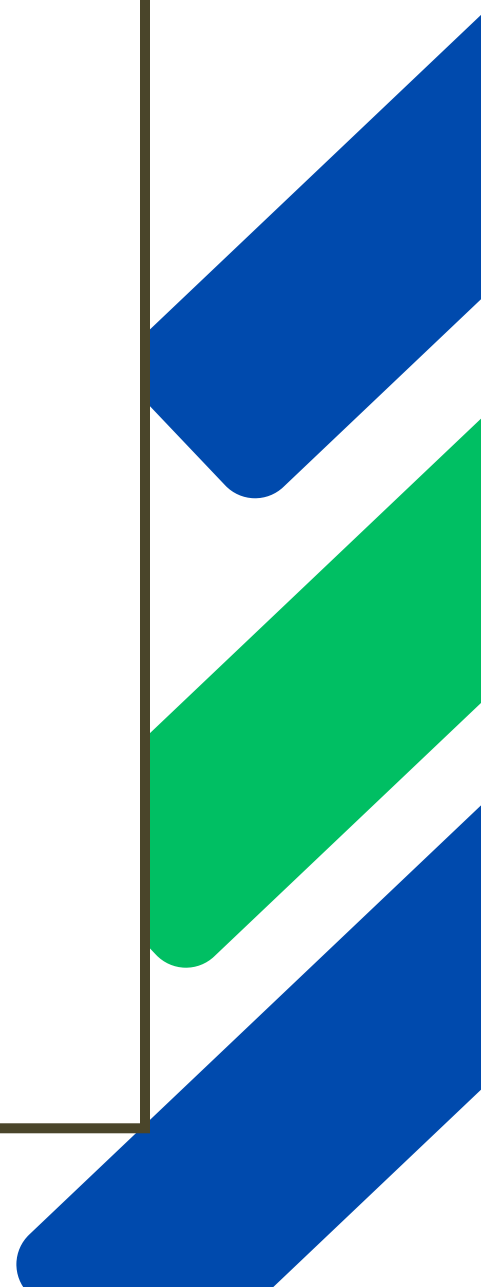
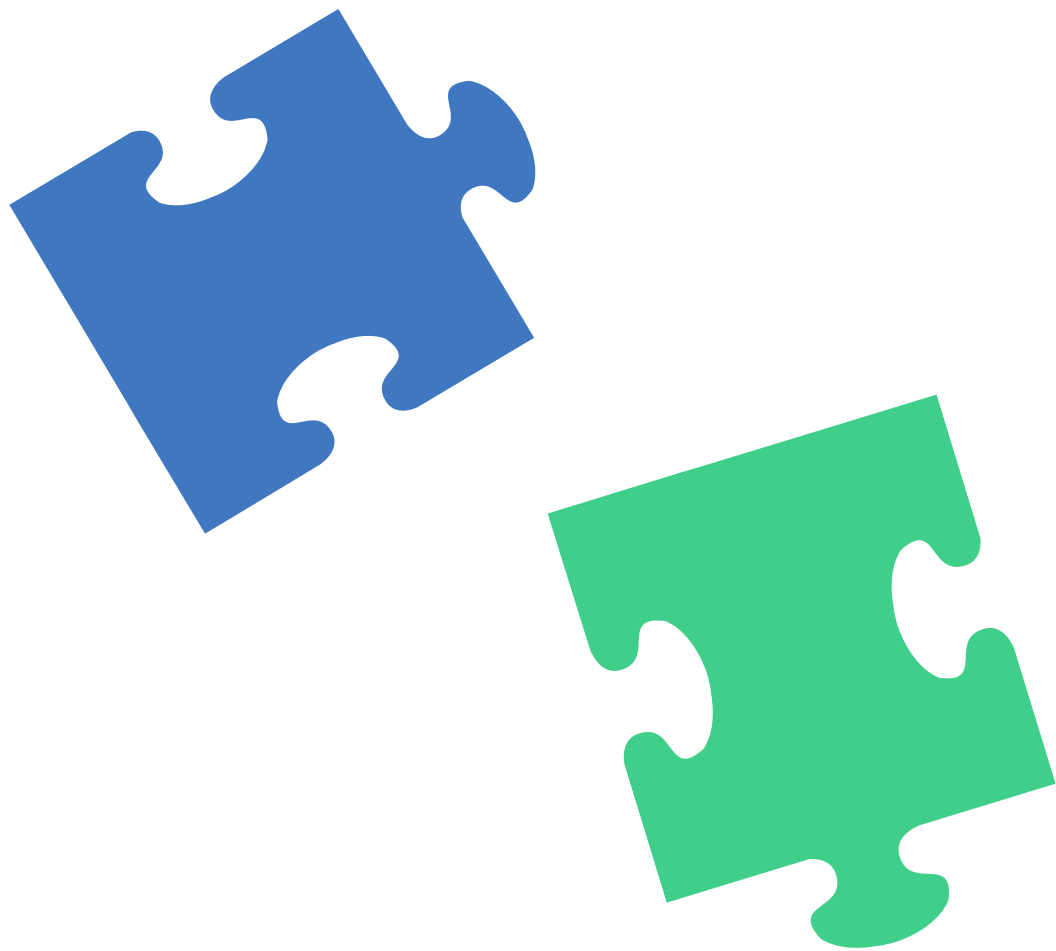
Deadlines

Creating accountability by setting specific points for milestones and completion

3

Accuracy

Importance of correctness, reliability and attention to detail



Human Resources

1



Personnel Records

2



Progression and Assimilation

3



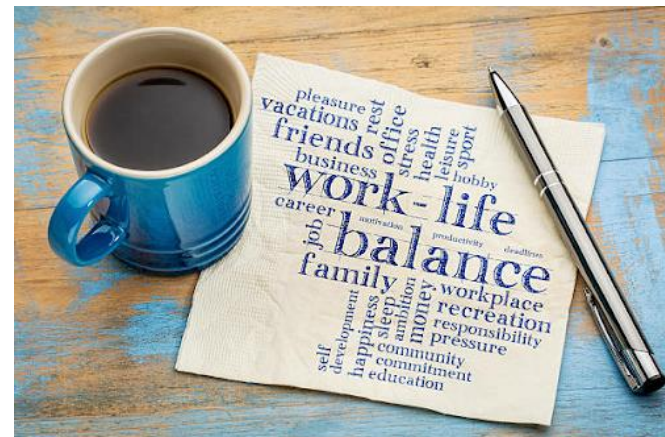
Salaries

4



Vacation Leave,
Sick Leave, Special Leave

5



Work-Life Balance
Measures

6



Selection Process

Selection Process

- Required Approvals
- Call Drafting
- Selection Board Set-Up
- Process: Criteria, Eligibility, Interview
- Report
- Publication of Result

DIRECTIVE 9

DIRECTIVE 10 HR PLANS



Office of the
Principal Permanent Secretary

Directive No 9

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SELECTION PROCESSES AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS IN THE MALTA PUBLIC SERVICE

Issued on the 18th September 2015 by the Principal Permanent Secretary in terms of the Public Administration Act and in consultation with the Public Service Commission.

1. PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY OF THIS DIRECTIVE

1.1 The delegation of authority for the filling of vacancies in Public Sector Entities, introduced through Directive 7, is being extended to the Public Service. This Directive sets out, through the annexed Manual, the procedures which shall apply to selection processes and appointment under the authority of Permanent Secretaries in terms of the Instrument of

Procurement and Finance



Procurement of Goods, Services and Works



Departmental Contracts Committee



Payments



Budgetary Submissions



Ongoing Budgetary Overview



Submission of Business and Financial Plans

- Salaries and Wages
- Operational and Maintenance
- Programmes and Initiatives
- Contributions to Government Entities
- Capital Projects



Article 14, Fiscal Responsibility Act

Key Legislation

- Public Finance Management Act

Chapter 601 of the Laws of Malta

- Public Procurement Regulations

Subsidiary Legislation 601.03

- General Financial Regulations

Subsidiary Legislation 601.01

- Financial Administration and Audit Act

Chapter 174 of the Laws of Malta

- Fiscal Responsibility Act

Chapter 534 of the Laws of Malta

Unauthorised

New or Additional Expenditures



In the course of the budget year, **no new or additional expenditures** can be made or committed to in excess of the **relevant budgetary allocation**, except with the express approval of the Minister for Finance

Article 22, Fiscal Responsibility Act

Any unauthorized new or additional expenditures shall become the **sole responsibility of the person making such authorizations** and the person occupying the highest **executive position** in Departments, authorities, agencies and entities falling within the remit of this Act and shall lead to **disciplinary action**

Article 25, Fiscal Responsibility Act

Remember

It is a principle recognized by all legal systems that
ignorance of the law is no excuse for breaking it... This rule is absolute.

Therefore, no invincible ignorance or error will serve for justification... Moreover, the said rule is general and applies both in respect of crimes and in respect of contraventions and both to subjects as well as to foreigners

Sir Anthony Mamo

Notes on Criminal Law, 1960 edit, p. 95-96

THANK YOU

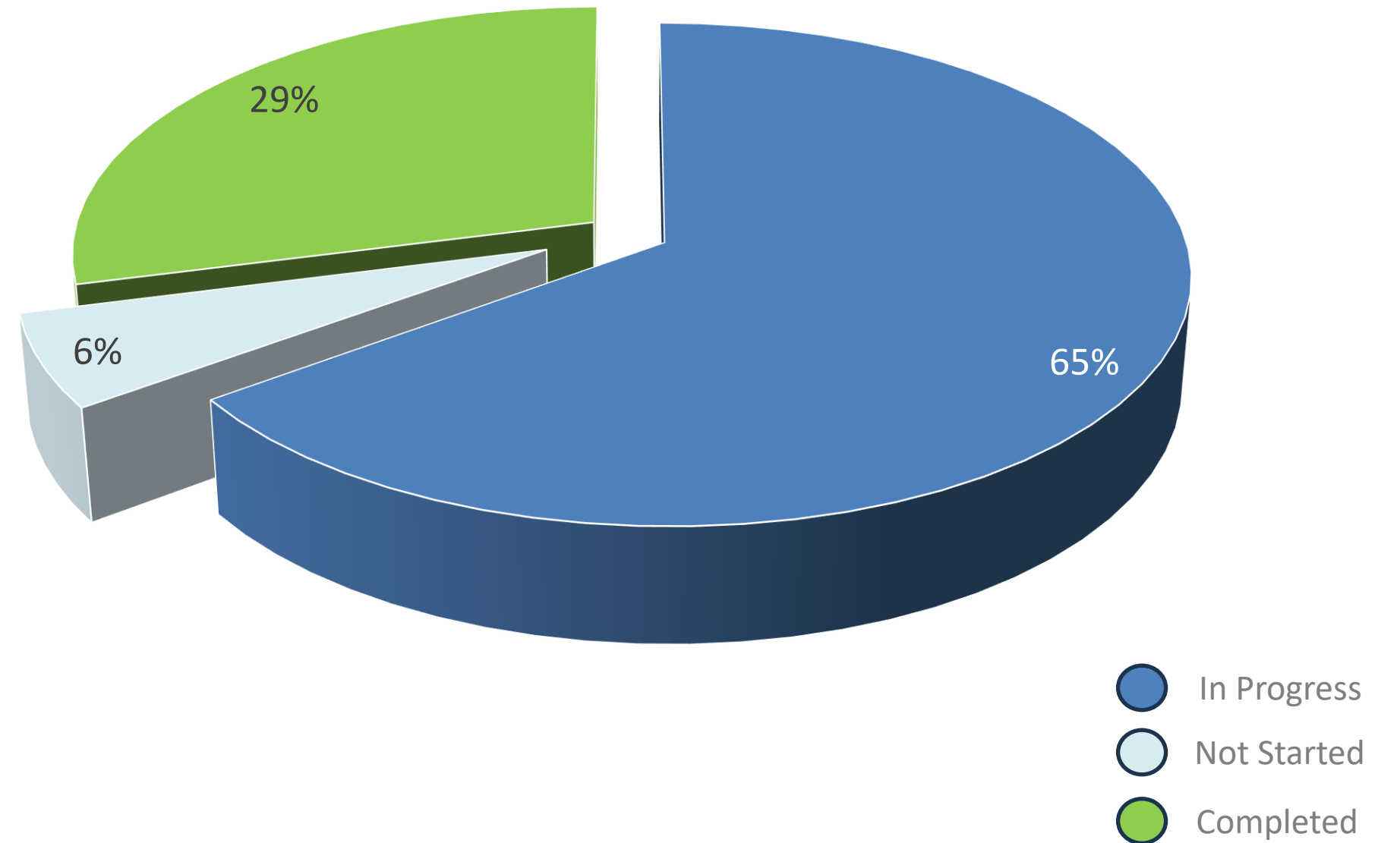
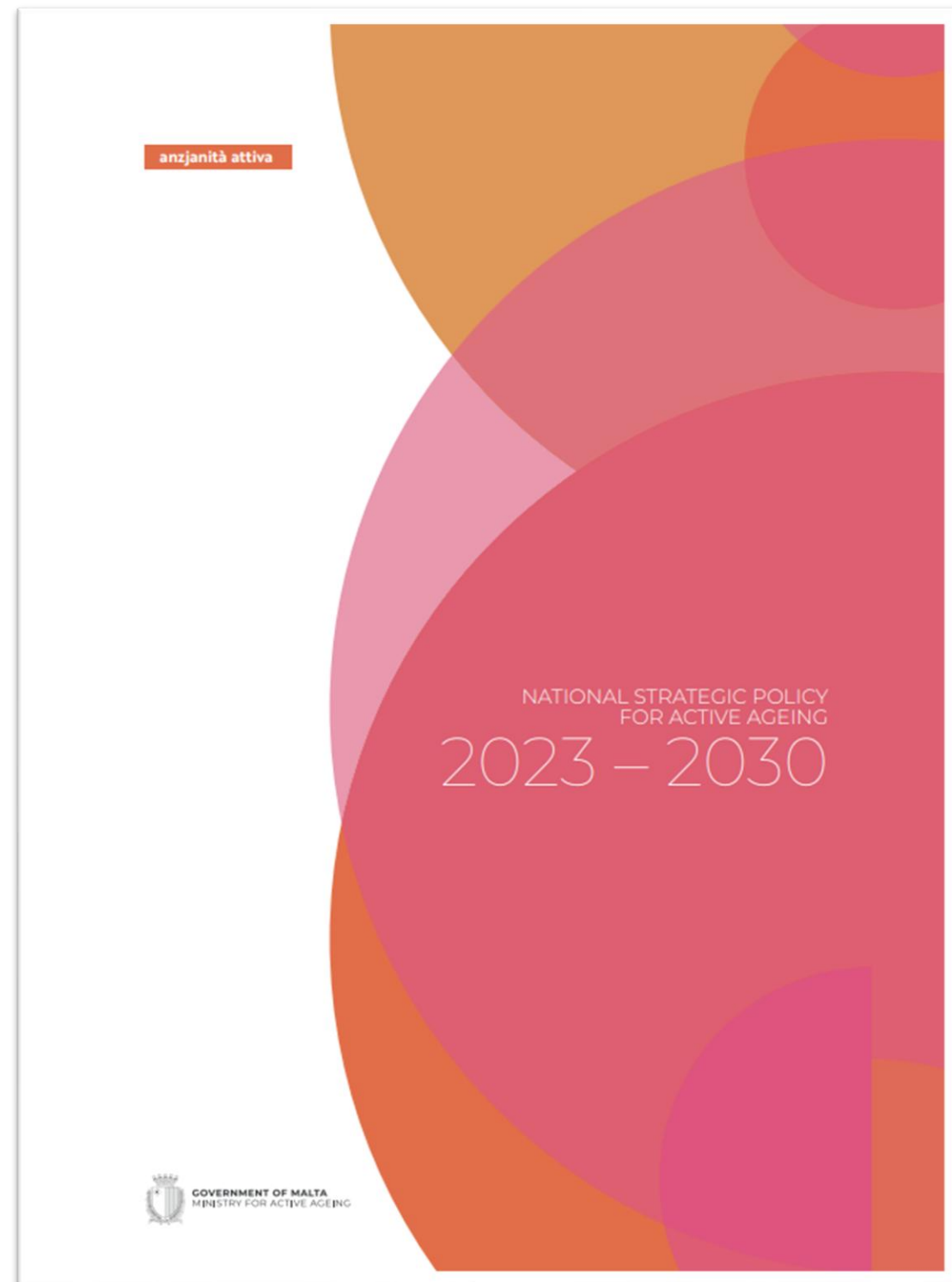


Policy and Projects Directorate

Francesca Muscat Camilleri

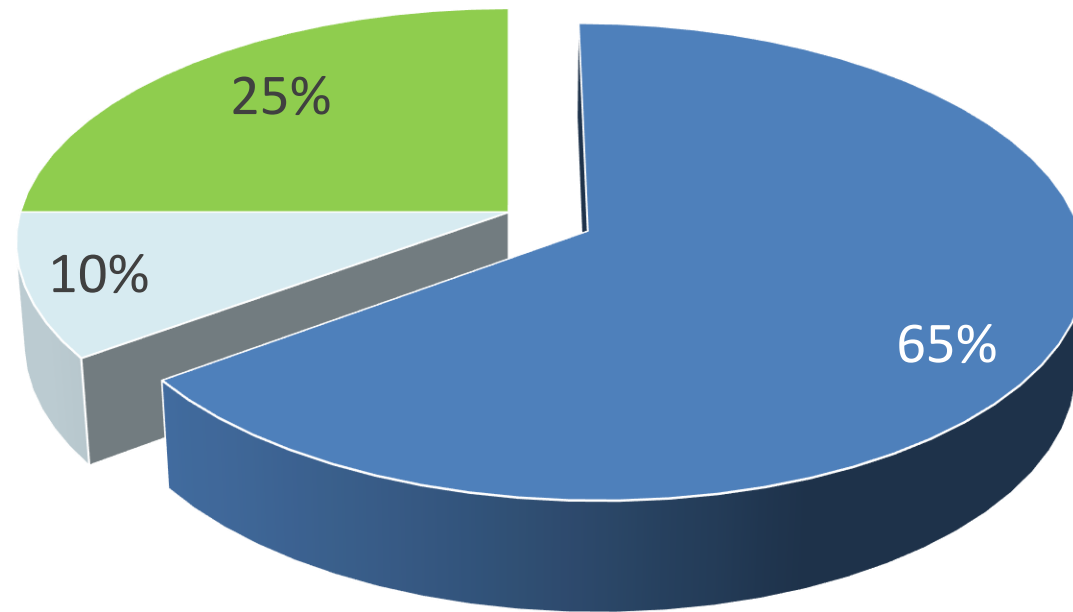


National Strategic Policy for Active Ageing

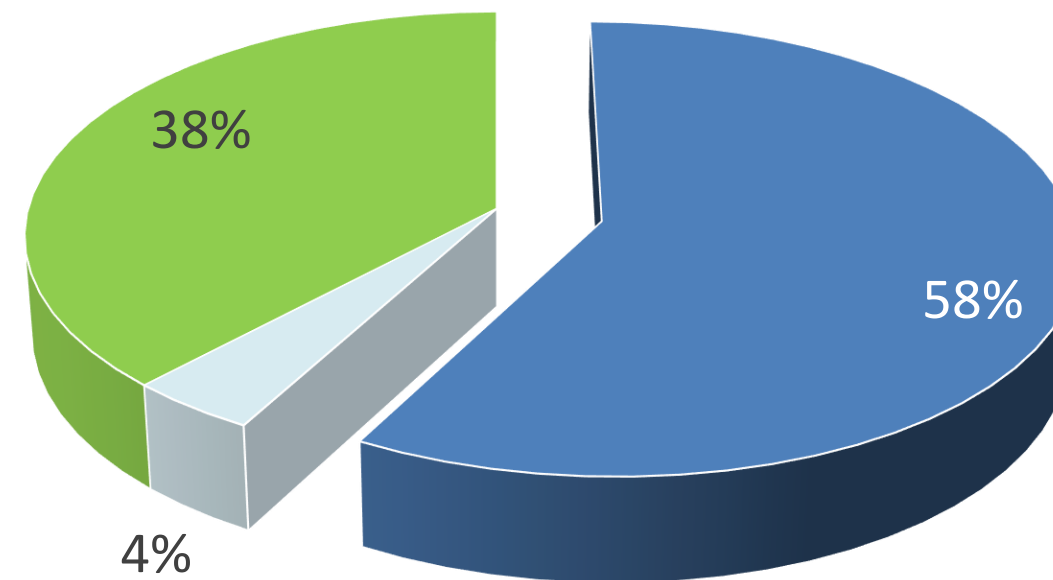


3 OBJECTIVES

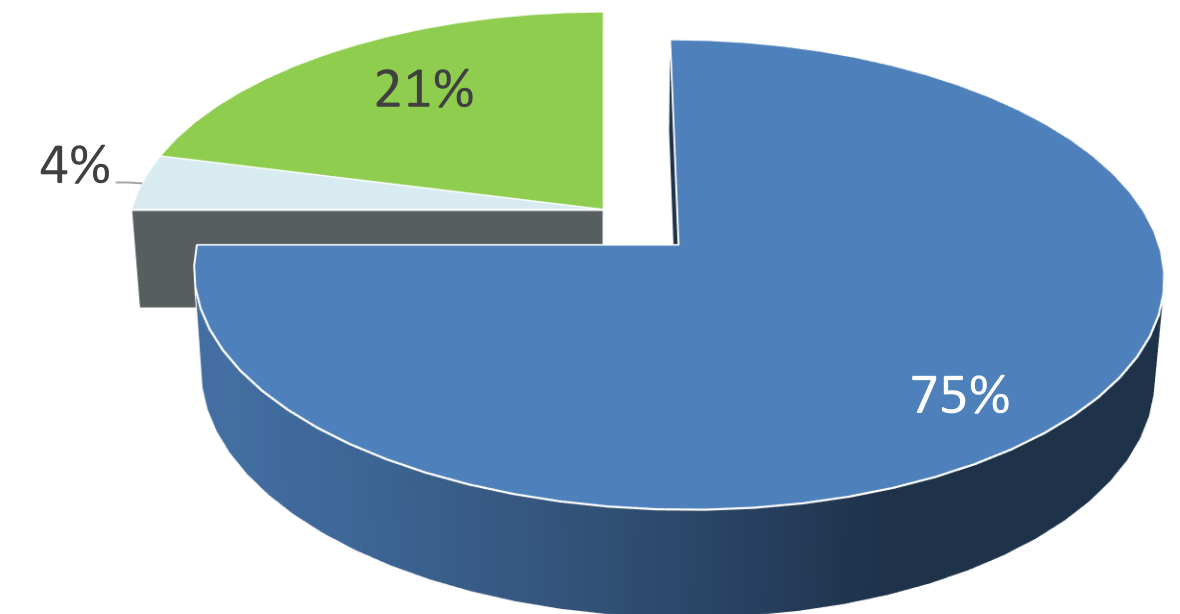
Social Inclusion



Healthy Ageing



Addressing Diversity and Inequality



-  In Progress
-  Not Started
-  Completed

Interministerial Engagement - National Strategies & Policies



Office of the Prime Minister
Human Rights Directorate



Ministry for Health and Active Ageing



Ministry for the Environment Energy & Public Cleanliness



Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights



Ministry for Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector



Ministry for Finance



Ministry for Culture, Lands and Local Government

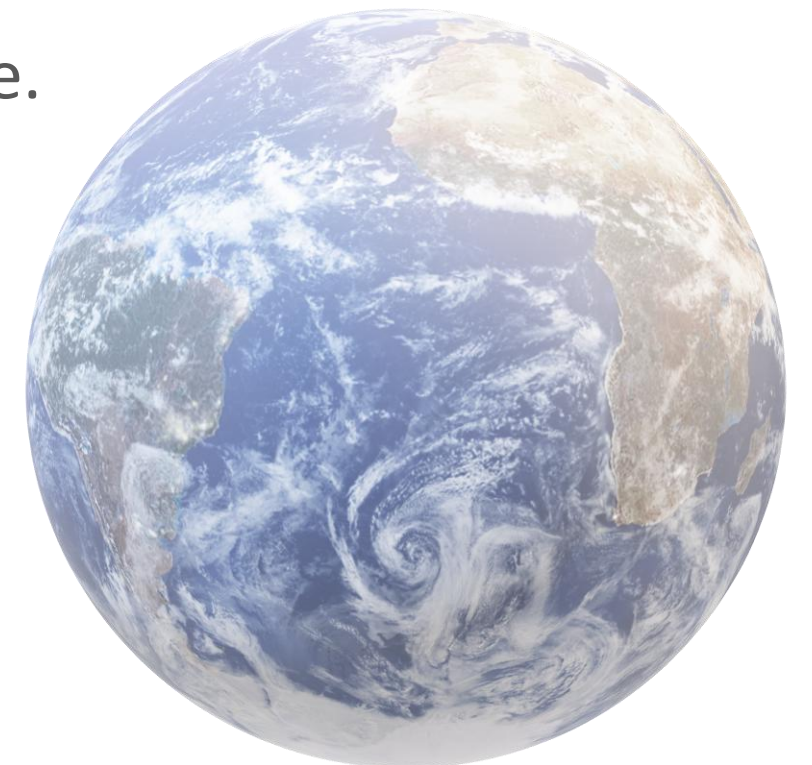


Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Employment



International Fora

- National Coordinator for the EU Council Recommendation on Access to Affordable, High-quality Long-Term Care.
- Advisory committee member for the development of the World Health Organization Regional Strategy: “Ageing is Living: a strategy for promoting a lifetime of health and well-being in the WHO European Region (2026–2030)”.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - Accession phase.



PROJECTS

Direct (Centralised) EU Funds

- Managed directly by the European Commission or its agencies
- Applications are submitted straight to Brussels
- Same rules across all EU countries
- Highly competitive, EU-wide calls

Such as Erasmus+ (central actions), the Technical Support Instrument (TSI), and parts of Horizon Europe

Indirect (Shared / Decentralised) EU Funds

- Managed by Member States
- National authorities select project with a framework tightly set and supervised by the EU
- Rules are set at EU level and implemented locally
- Often aligned with National development priorities

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).

Collaboration with Servizi Ewropej f'Malta (SEM)



Technical Support Instrument (TSI) Project

Supporting Active Ageing in Malta: Towards a Legal Framework on Long-Term Care (LTC)

What the project is about

This EU-funded Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project supports Malta in reviewing and strengthening its legal and governance framework for long-term care (LTC) for older persons.

The P&P Directorate, in partnership with WHO Europe and in cooperation with the European Commission, is implementing a project that integrates evidence-based analysis, stakeholder engagement, and international benchmarking to identify system gaps, clarify roles and responsibilities, and strengthen coordination across health and social care services.

Through national assessments, policy dialogue, and legal reform proposals, the project aims to enhance the quality, sustainability, and accountability of long-term care provision in Malta.

Technical Support Instrument (TSI) Project

Supporting Active Ageing in Malta: Towards a Legal Framework on Long-Term Care (LTC)

Project Launch

12th June 2025

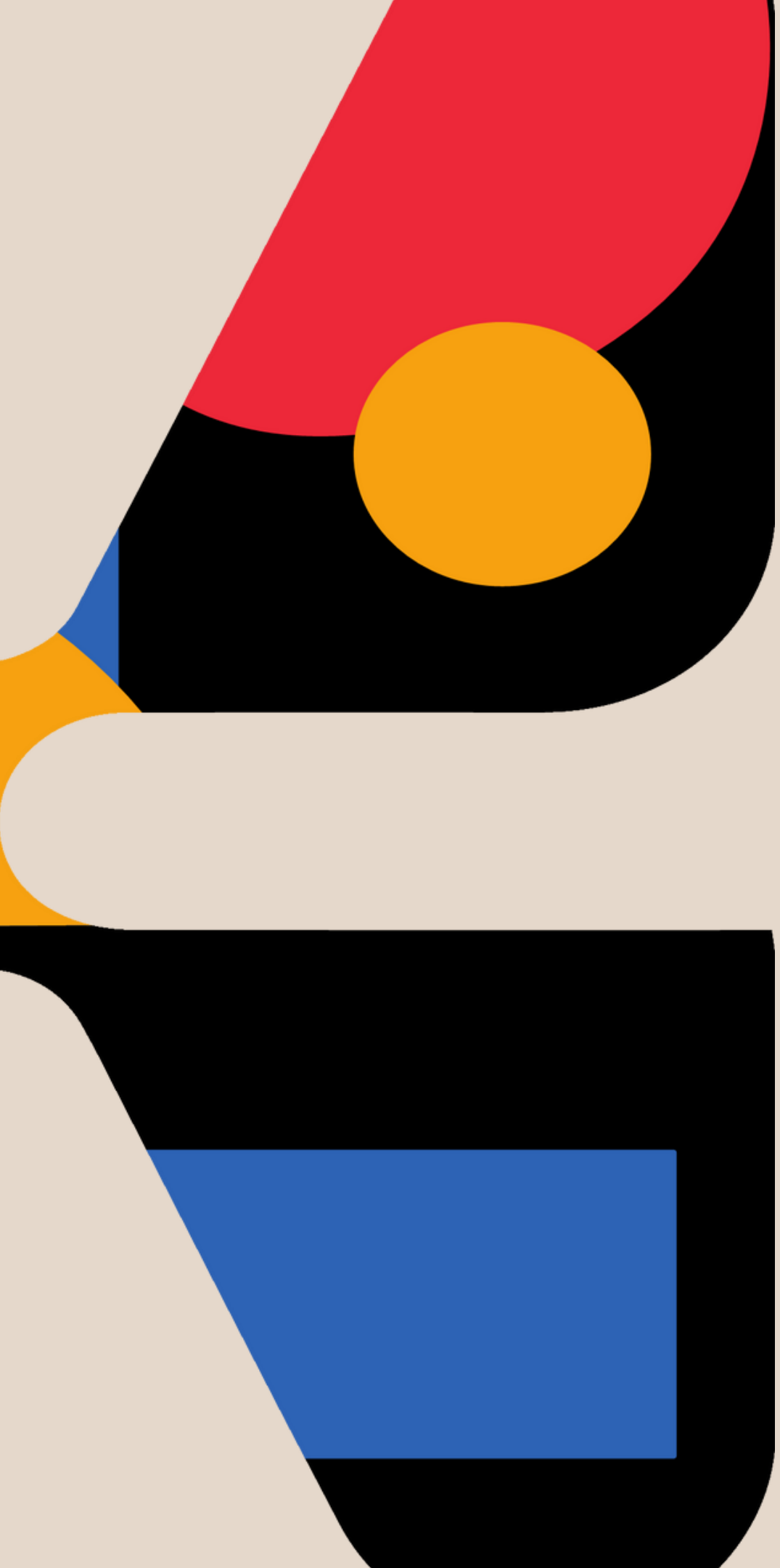
Progress in 2025

- Inception Phase Completed
- Stakeholder Mapping
- System Evidence & Legal Analysis
- Policy Dialogue & Governance

Key Tasks Ahead 2026

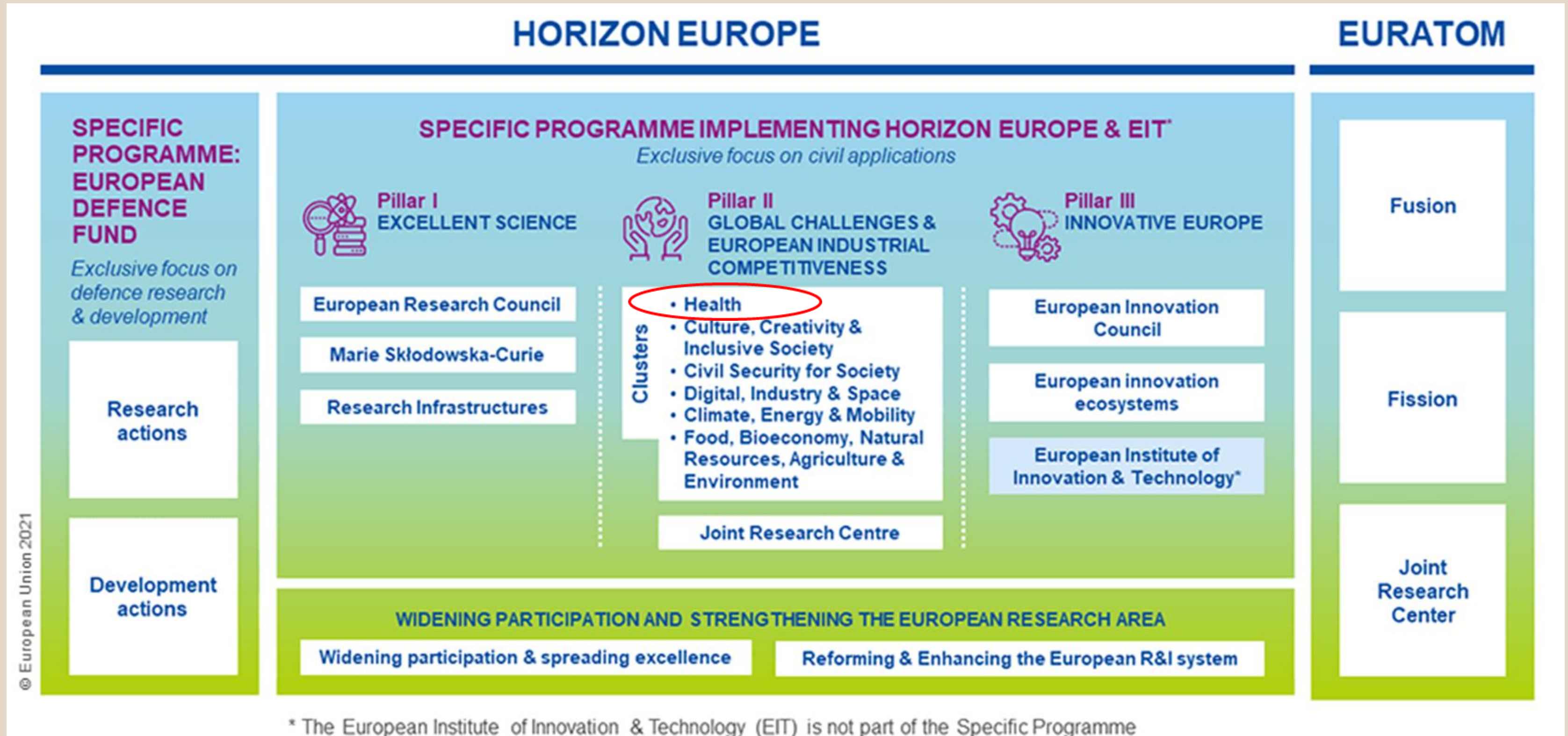
- Undertake peer exchange and study visit (Ireland)
- Draft a legal reform proposal
- Organise focus groups with older people and families on preferences and barriers in long-term care services
- Develop a short survey instrument in collaboration with NSO
- Host a Final National Conference on LTC Reform to support policy adoption and dissemination

THANK YOU



Funding Opportunities - Xjenza Malta

Framework Programme Unit



Framework Programme Unit

Consortium of at least 3 different partners from 3 different countries	Topic for Health Calls - 10 Feb-16 Apr 2026	Type of Action	EU funding per project (€ M)	No. of projects to be funded
	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE-03: Advancing research on the prevention, diagnosis, and management of post-infection long-term conditions	RIA	6-8	5
	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-CARE-03: Identifying and addressing low-value care in health and care systems	RIA	10	4
	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-IND-03: Regulatory science to support translational development of patient-centred health technologies	RIA	4-6	4

For further Information
Ayrton.Barbara.1@gov.mt



Personnel, Equipment, Sub-contracting other goods and services, and Travel costs are eligible



Up to 100% Funding (Non profit making organisations are always 100% funded)



+ 25% Indirect cost top up over eligible costs (excluding subcontracting costs)

Internationalisation Unit



- ✦ Joint Transnational Call 2026 - “Access to Care” to promote equitable access to health and care services
- ✦ Deadline for pre-proposals: 2 February 2026 (Closed - Possibility of a widening initiative to be available later)

**Up to €500K
per project**
For Maltese Based
Entities



- ✦ Joint Transnational Call 2026 - “Treatments and adherence to treatment protocols” targets antimicrobial resistance using a One Health approach
- ✦ Deadline for pre-proposals: 2 February 2026 (Closed - Possibility of a widening initiative to be available later)

**Up to €500K
per project**
For Maltese Based
Entities



- ✦ Joint Transnational Calls 2026 - “Neurological, mental & sensory disorders” and “Neurodegenerative disorders”
- ✦ Deadline for pre-proposals: 10 March 2026 (Open)

**Up to €500K
per project**
For Maltese Based
Entities



- ✦ Joint Bilateral Call 2026 - “Health and Well-being”
- ✦ Consortium: min. one Malta-based and one Poland-based entity
- ✦ Deadline for national proposals: 30 March 2026 (Open)

**Up to €150K
per project**
For Maltese Based
Entities

Further information: <https://xjenzamalta.mt/media/open-funding-schemes/>

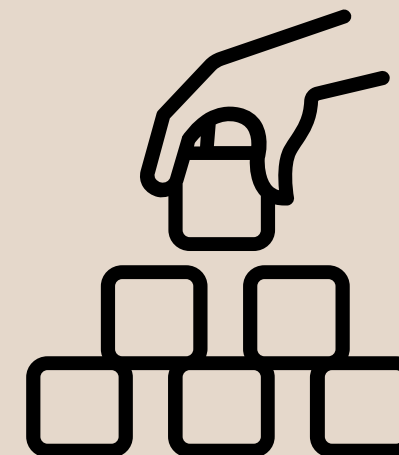
Contact: eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt



Research and Innovation Unit



Research Excellence Programme



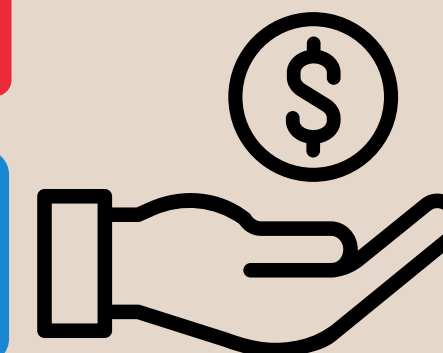
EARLY STAGE RESEARCH

BOTTOM-UP APPROACH

HIGH SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

UP TO €100,000

FUNDING UNDER THE DE MINIMIS
ROUTE AT 90% AID INTENSITY.



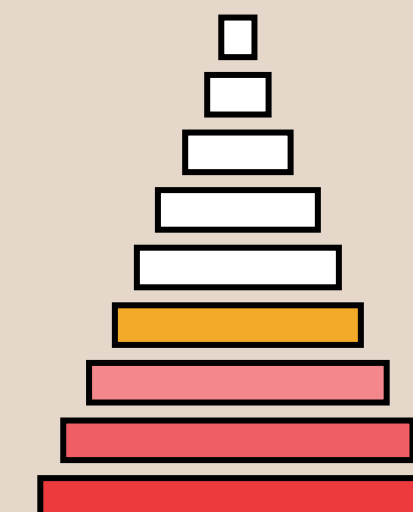
or Non-State Aid Route



CLOSED. TO OPEN Q3/Q4 2026

PROJECTS 18 MONTH DURATION

PROJECTS RANGING FROM TRL 1-4





In collaboration with the **Cancer Research & Innovation Hub Malta (CRIHM)**

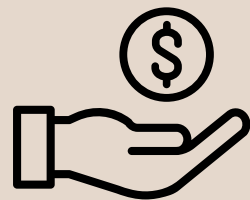
Priority Areas

Molecular Research and Diagnostic Innovations

Therapeutic Development and Clinical Strategies

Community-Based Cancer Research

Psychosocial Support and Patient-Centred Approaches



UP TO €300,000



SOLE ENTITY OR CONSORTIA



36 MONTH DURATION

2

Funding Routes

→ *de minimis*

up to 75% aid

→ GBE

up to 60% aid

or Non-State Aid Route



Currently Closed
Call to open Q2 2026

Digital Technology Programme

In collaboration with the Malta Digital Innovation Authority (MDIA)

Priority Areas

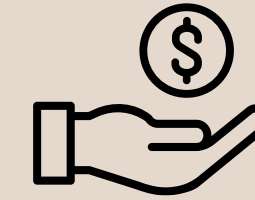
Artificial Intelligence

Digital Trust

Technology for Sustainability and ESG

Knowledge & Data Representation and Analysis

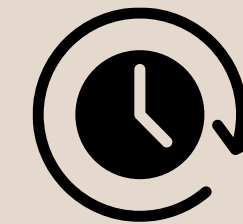
Quantum Computing & Other Emerging Technologies



UP TO €200,000



SOLE ENTITY OR CONSORTIA



24 MONTH DURATION

2 Funding Routes



Currently Closed
Call to open Q2 2026

Kindly note that information presented is subject to change

Research Networking Scheme

Local Networking Scheme (LNS)	Maltese Entity Maltese Entity	Maltese Entity Foreign Entity	Maltese Entity Foreign Entity incl. Diaspora researcher +€2K	€ 8K 12 MONTH DURATION FUNDING UNDER DE MINIMIS AT 100% INTENSITY OR NON STATE AID
International Networking Scheme (INS)	Maltese Entity Foreign Entity	Networking activities outside of Malta	€ 8K 12 MONTH DURATION	FUNDING UNDER DE MINIMIS AT 100% INTENSITY OR NON STATE AID
Open Access Journal Support	➤ Maltese entities that already benefited from a Xjenza Malta grant ➤ Supports the publication of research results in peer-reviewed open access journals			€ 4K 12 MONTH DURATION
	FUNDING UNDER DE MINIMIS AT 100% INTENSITY OR NON STATE AID			



CONTACT |

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Coffee Break





St. Vincent De Paul

Jorgen Souness

Active Ageing in Action: From Policy to Practice

- **St Vincent de Paul as a national pillar in long-term care**

Provision of comprehensive residential, clinical, social, and wellbeing services for persons with complex and diverse needs.

- **Healthy ageing as a core operational principle**

Embedded within SVP's daily practice through programmes that promote dignity, independence, participation, and quality of life.

- **Direct alignment with national active ageing and health policies**

Implementation of high-level policy objectives through practical, measurable outcomes in residential care environments.

- **A shift from institutional care to age-friendly living environments**

Provision of an integrated continuum of care encompassing healthcare, social engagement and rehabilitation.

- **SVP's strategic readiness to act as an implementation partner**

Leveraging scale, expertise, and intersectoral collaboration to deliver measurable outcomes for older persons (AI integration).



SVP's Role

- National largest long-term care provider - **1,500 residents across 50 wards**
- Delivery of **complex, high-dependency care** for residents with diverse clinical and social needs
- Four specialised wards currently in operation, with the 5th scheduled to open next month
- Integrated model combining residential care, clinical services, social support, and wellbeing programmes
- A workforce of **approximately 3,000 staff**, enabling SVP to function as a living, age-friendly care environment rather than a traditional institution
- Day Clinic services supporting approximately **250 outpatient** attendances daily, extending care beyond residential settings



SVP Vision - Short-Term Plans (1–2 Years)

Key Priorities & Actions

- Investing in additional specialised care – person centred care.
- Preventive health programmes, rehabilitation, reablement to enhance wellness.
- Digitalisation of care records and operational processes.
- Workforce upskilling and leadership development.
- ISO certification.
- Investing and exploring Personalised care models.

Anticipated Impact

- Improved resident autonomy and health outcomes.
- Integrated care pathways and quality of care.
- Reduce operational pressures on staff, enabling greater focus on direct bedside nursing care.



Medium-Term Vision (3–5 Years)

Strategic Direction

- Infrastructure upgrades supporting safe, age-friendly environments
- Additional level of quality accreditation through ISO certification
- Expansion of Intermediate care beds + LTC beds
- Data-driven performance and digitalised systems
- Supporting healthy Workforce

Anticipated Impact

- Sustainable, high-quality services
- Increased system resilience and efficiency
- Supply meets demand
- Efficiency through system improvement



Expectations for Collaboration within the Ministry

- Clear policy alignment between care, ageing, and social inclusion
- Streamlined HR, procurement, and capital project processes
- Joint planning to address workforce shortages
- Shared performance indicators and accountability frameworks



Collaboration with the Health Sector

- Stronger integration with community, primary and secondary healthcare rather than just the acute hospital
- Shared care pathways for chronic disease management
- Improved access to specialists – increasing Day clinic slots
- Use of shared data systems to support continuity of care



Beyond the Ministry: Intersectoral Collaboration

Opportunities

- Partnerships with local councils and community organisations and schools
- Partnerships with similar geriatric settings abroad (one stop shop healthcare settings)
- Collaboration with education institutions for training and research (MCAST, UOM & other private institutions)
- Engagement with NGOs, volunteers, and the private sector (Volserv)
- Use of technology and innovation to support active ageing (Nurse Lucie).
- Intersectoral research

Outcome

A holistic, community-linked active ageing ecosystem



DOI Alan Saliba



Conclusion – Meeting the Ageing Challenge

- Malta's demographic shift is accelerating, with **1 in 5 people currently aged 65 and over**, placing sustained pressure on care services.
- Healthy ageing must move beyond policy into coordinated, service-level delivery across sectors.
- SVP is adapting its care models to respond to increasing complexity, dependency, and longevity.
- Future readiness depends on smarter workforce planning, service integration, and capacity building.
- With scale, experience, and collaboration, SVP is positioned to meet growing demand while safeguarding dignity, quality, and outcomes for older persons.



Thank You



Active Ageing and Community Care

Dr Steve Agius



A Year in Review: 2025

2025 showed significant expansion across AACCC's community-based services, driven by rising demand, greater complexity of needs, and a shift towards supporting older adults to remain safely at home.

- Community programmes experienced year-on-year growth across mobility, therapy and dementia services.
- Several services recorded their highest utilisation levels to date.
- Growth patterns confirm that older adults are increasingly relying on community services to maintain independence.
- Telecare, Silver-T mobility, dementia services, and CommCare all recorded substantial year-on-year growth.
 - Telecare reaching 7,500 users and Silver-T exceeding 67,000 trips.
 - Community therapy services also expanded sharply, with podology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and dental hygiene volumes more than doubling.
 - CommCare surpassed 1.44 million interventions, reinforcing its role as Malta's primary home-based support service.

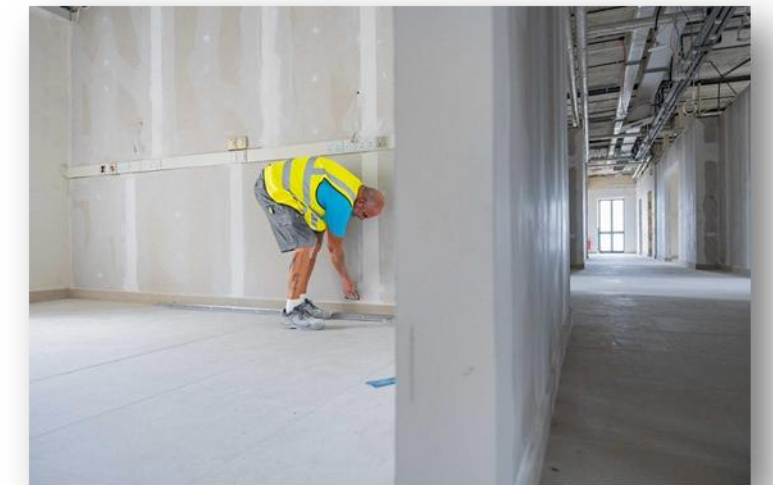
Malta's Ageing Population

The Growing Demand for Community Care

- In 2022, there were 131,000 individuals aged 60+.
- By 2030, this figure will exceed 147,000, representing an increase of more than 16,000 older adults (increase of 12%).
- The combined 80+ population grows from 22,432 in 2022 to 35,929 in 2030, an increase of 13,497 individuals, equivalent to 60% growth.
- People are living longer and requiring extended support in the community.
- AACCC will continue to adopt a dependency-driven, preventive, and integrated care model, prioritising early intervention and community-based support while ensuring robust, high-quality provision for those with complex and intensive care needs.

Modernising Facilities to Meet Rising Demand

- **Mtarfa Home:** Completion of first-floor M&E works, AC installation, new lift, kitchen/dining refurbishment; relocation of residents; commencement of full ground-floor overhaul.
- **Mosta Home:** Flooring works; drainage approvals; internal doors and furniture; aluminium tender; PA permits; structural alterations; AC installations; resident relocation.
- **Cospicua & Msida Homes:** PA permit process for demolition and reconstruction of new homes.
- **Sliema Dementia Centre:** Finalisation of electrical/water systems, gypsum and painting, furniture and apertures, flooring; full project completion.



Strengthening Clinical & Community Services

Dementia Care

- Continued home-based assessments and MDT interventions.
- 2025 activity levels: 2,527 home visits and 10,088 telephone interventions.
- Opening of new Dementia Day Centre (Sliema).
- Pilot implementation of dementia screening and prevention programme.

Diabetes Intervention Team

- Launch of a community-based multidisciplinary model focused on early intervention, monitoring and education.
- Pilot in defined geographical area prior to national expansion.

Falls Prevention Campaign

- Residential and community centre campaigns.
- Professional talks, balance exercise sessions, and targeted prevention leaflets.
- Expansion across Q1–Q4 2026.



**Falls In
Seniors: An
Imminent
Threat That
You Can
Prevent**

Dementia Strategy and JADE Health Joint Action

The National Dementia Strategy for the Maltese Islands 2024–2031 'Reaching New Heights' aims to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their caregivers through enhanced, accessible, and inclusive community care services.

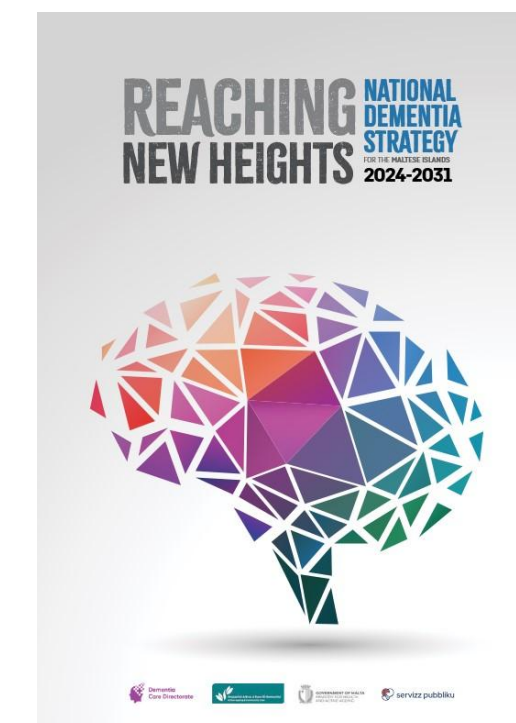
Key aspects of the strategy include:

- **Awareness and Inclusivity**
- **Strengthening Care**
- **Preventative Focus**
- **Support for Caregivers**
- **Sustainability**

JADE Health: A Collaborative EU initiative to reduce the burden and stigma of dementia and neurological disorders through prevention, early detection, and holistic care

The main goal of the **JADE Health Joint Action (JA)** is

- to improve and foster health in the EU Member States by reducing the burden of Dementia and other Neurological Disorder and related diseases, both at societal personal level,
- through improving prevention and early detection of the illnesses and
- improve education and insight into and understanding of the disease for relatives, care professionals and other stakeholders.



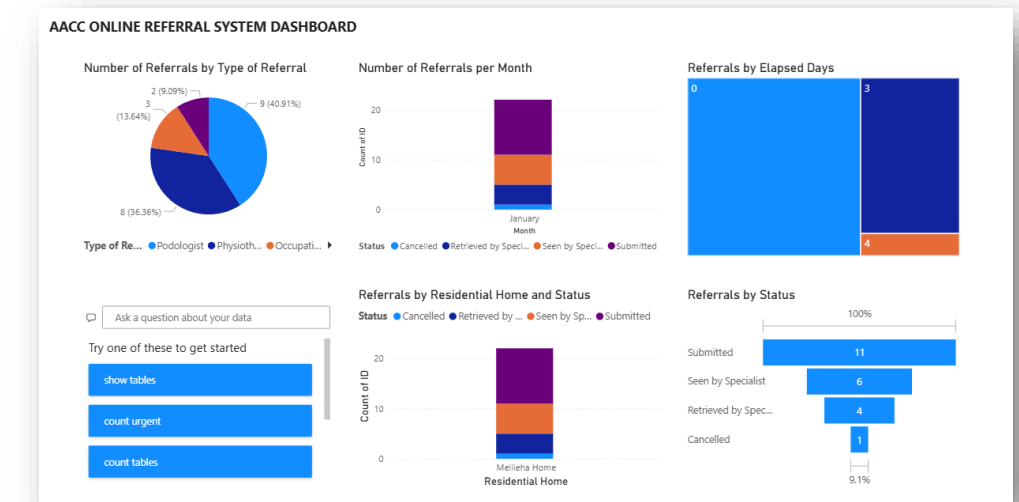
Digital Transformation & Active Ageing Initiatives

Digital Transformation

- Full rollout of CONVERGE (CMS).
- Launch of new portal for residential homes with centralised data.
- New online residential referral portal.
- Implementation of real-time dashboards for service uptake, trends, and performance monitoring.

Active Ageing Centres

- New centres in Rabat and Żabbar; Dingli refurbishment.
- New collaboration with Ibraġġ Seniors.
- Introduction of VR activities, intergenerational programmes, regional collaborations, and structured yearly student engagement (Form 1–6).



Strategic Innovation & Long-Term Planning

Residential Home of the Future (PoC)

- Fully operational demonstrator room at Mtarfa Home.
- Testing digital tools, care pathways, staffing models, and design improvements before national scale-up.

Costing and Sustainability

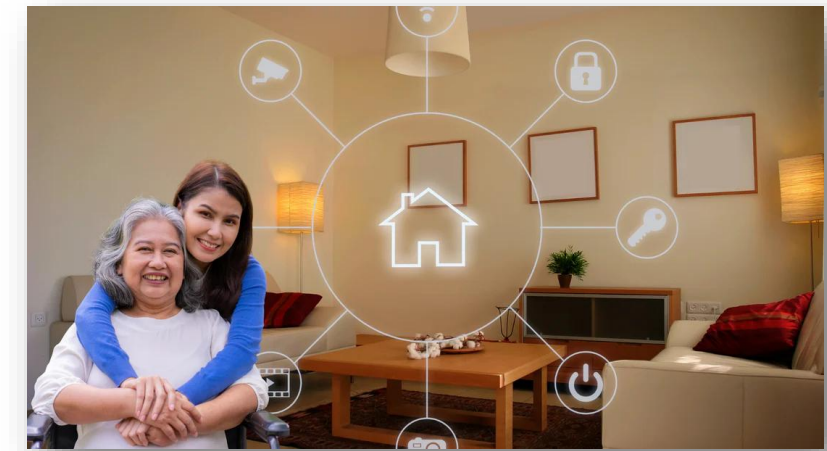
- Continuation of detailed costing exercises for long-term financial sustainability.
- Completed exercises: Free Internet to Elderly, Telecare Expansion, Handyman Service, Silver-T.

Long-Term Residential Bed Capacity Plan (2025–2035)

- Forecasting national bed requirements.
- Benchmarking against EU comparators.
- Ensuring regulatory alignment, workforce sustainability, and person-centred care.

Quality and Care Standards

- Strengthened audits and closer collaboration with homes to maintain high care standards across all settings.



Strengthened Cross-Ministry Collaboration

EU-funded joint projects

- Coordinated planning, shared workstreams, and aligned deliverables across Ministry departments and Health entities to maximise impact and ensure more competitive proposals.

Sharing of data and intelligence

- Establishing structured data-sharing protocols between AACC, MDH, PH, Community Care to support evidence-based decision-making, forecasting, and early intervention.

Joint initiatives for holistic support to older adults

- Co-designed programmes with Health (e.g., dementia care, diabetes management, falls prevention) to ensure continuity of care between hospitals, primary care, community services, and residential care.

Enhanced Collaboration Beyond the Ministry

- Intersectoral partnerships for active ageing: Collaborating with Education, Transport, Social Policy, Local Councils, Sport & Culture, and digital innovation agencies to create inclusive, age-friendly environments.

THANK YOU



Anzjanita Attiva u Kura fil-Komunita'
Active Ageing & Community Care

Older Persons Standards Authority

George Fenech



OPSA

Older Persons
Standards Authority

Leading with Standards, Dignity and Purpose

- Malta is ageing — not just in years, but in **complexity, expectations and variety of need**
- Today, older persons expect **choice, respect, safety, and quality of life**, and not just care
- OPSA's responsibility is evolving:
 - From a Regulator to a **Standards Leader**
 - From Compliance to **Quality and Outcome**



Strengthening Regulation & Enforcement

- Risk-based inspection and licensing model
- Greater focus on outcomes, not only compliance
- Clear, fair enforcement tools
- Stronger follow-up and corrective action mechanisms

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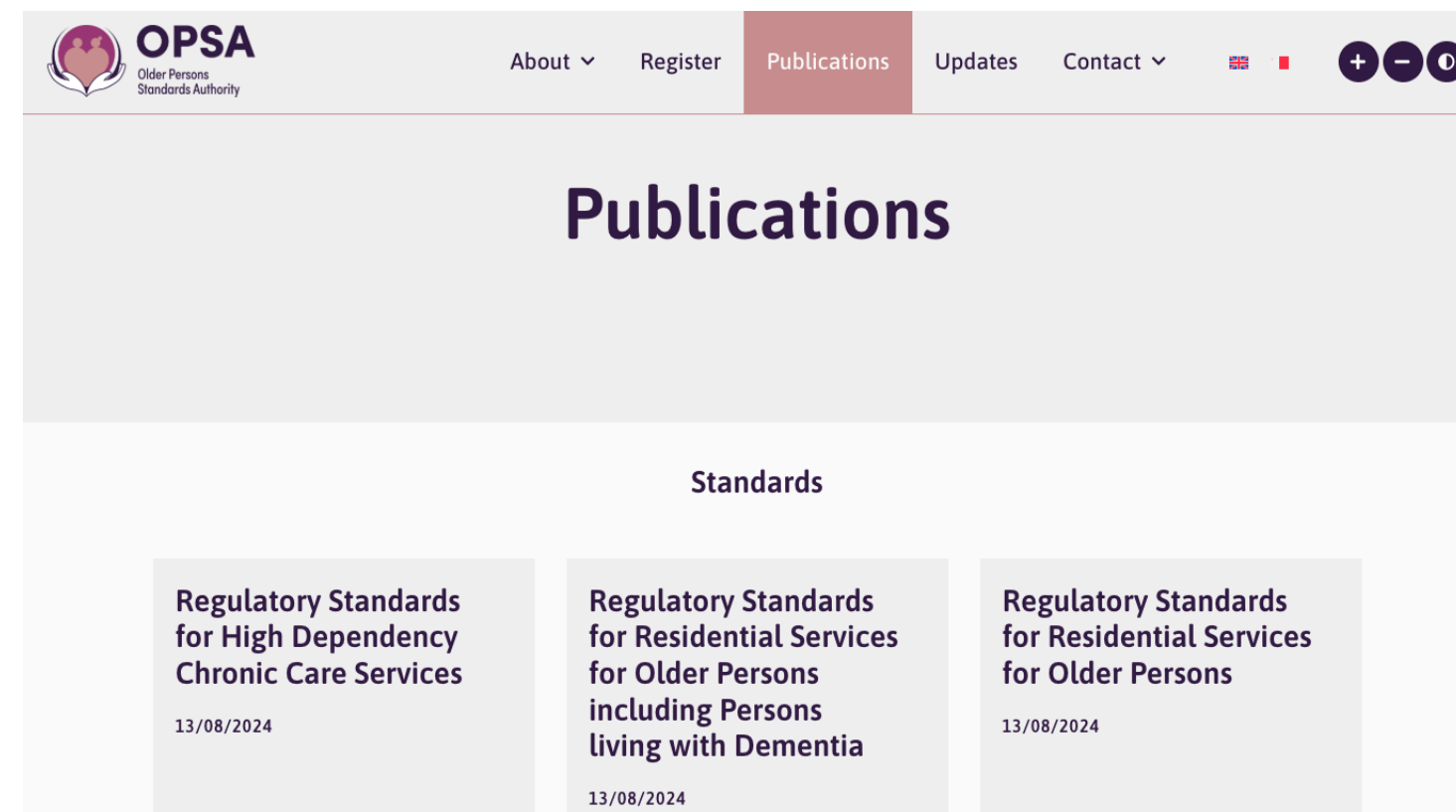
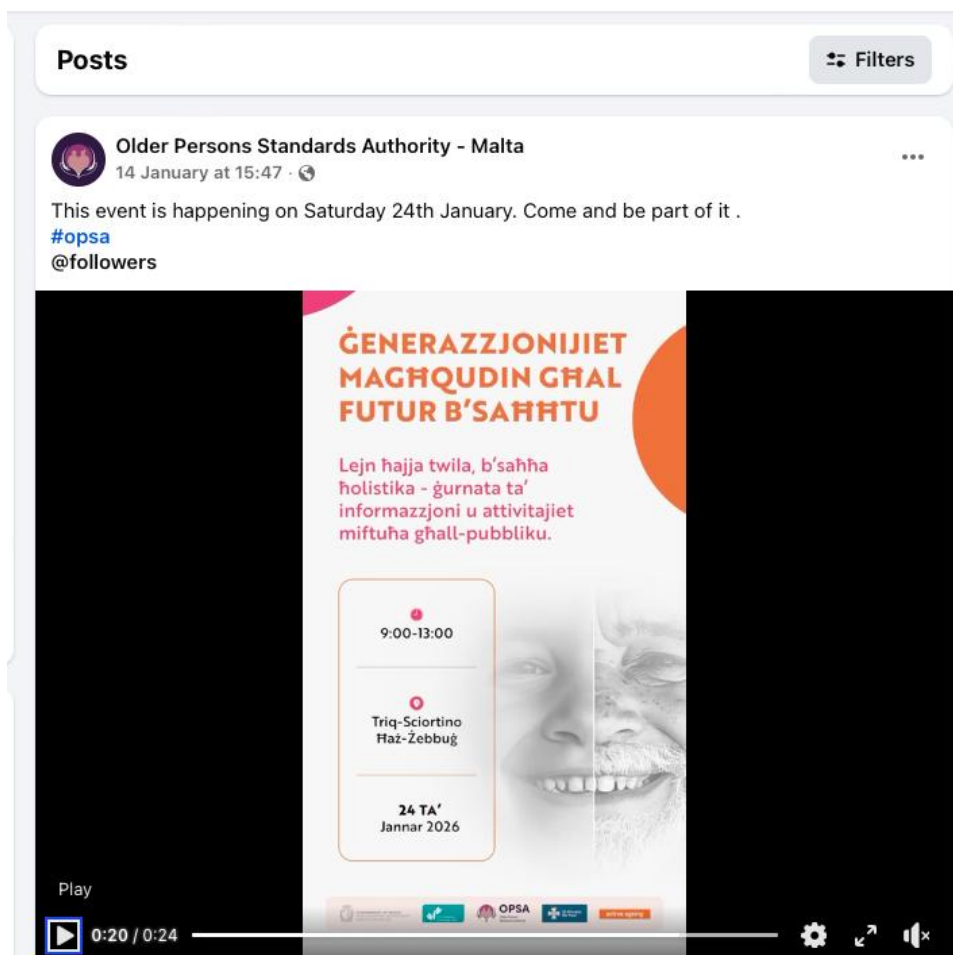
SCORING VS PI IMPORTANCE MATRIX

0	0 - MINOR	0 - SIGNIFICANT	0 - SEVERE
1	1 - MINOR	1 - SIGNIFICANT	1 - SEVERE
2	2 - MINOR	2 - SIGNIFICANT	2 - SEVERE
	MINOR	SIGNIFICANT	SEVERE

Standard	Quality Indicator	Performance Indicator (PI)	Pillar	Matrix
1	1	6	Management	Significant
1	2	6	Management	Minor
1	2	13	Management	Severe

Transparency & Public Trust

- Clear communication of standards and the need for inspection
- Public reporting to be delivered accurately and meaningfully
- Strengthening OPSA's visibility and credibility
- Building trust through consistency and professionalism



Looking Ahead to 2026 and Beyond

- Modern standards that reflect **person-centered, rights-based care**
- Regulation that is **firm, fair, and balanced**
- A workforce culture built on **competence, compassion, and leadership**
- Digital systems that improve oversight **without losing the human touch**
- Older persons and families empowered with **information, trust, and a voice**



Empowering Older Persons & Families

- Stronger voice for residents and service users
- Clear complaints and feedback pathways
- Promote informed choice and autonomy
- Focus on quality of life, not only on longevity



**OPSA**
Older Persons
Standards Authority

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CONTACT

Get in touch with us

We look forward to hearing from you and to assist you in the best way possible. You may wish to get in touch with us through the channels indicated below.

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FOLLOW US


Community & Home-Based Care

- Expanding oversight beyond residential settings
- Standards for Residential Care homes, Day Care Centers and Community Services
- Supporting ageing in place where safe and appropriate
- Ensuring consistency of quality across all care settings



REGULATORY STANDARDS
FOR
DAY CARE CENTRES FOR OLDER PERSONS

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH HIGH
DEPENDENCY CHRONIC CARE NEEDS

REGULATORY STANDARDS FOR
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS
INCLUDING PERSONS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

Our Ambition

- A care system where standards are **understood, owned, and lived**
- OPSA as a **guardian of dignity** and a partner in improvement
- Quality of life as **the true measure of success**



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Our Mission

OPSA regulates geriatric services to ensure the well-being and rights of older persons, promoting quality care, inclusivity, and a supportive environment.

Our Vision

OPSA aims to be a leading regulator committed to excellence, innovation, and advocacy in geriatric care. We envision a future where geriatric services respect, protect, and empower older persons to lead fulfilling lives.



Quality of Life Research (2005) 14: 2197–2214
DOI 10.1007/s11136-005-7380-9

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Development of the WHOQOL-Old module

Mick Power, Kathryn Quinn, Silke Schmidt & the WHOQOL-OLD Group★
Section of Clinical and Health Psychology, Kennedy Tower, Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Edinburgh, EH10 5HF, UK (E-mail: mjpowers@staffmail.ed.ac.uk)

Accepted in revised form 12 May 2005

Measuring Success (2026+)

- Improved quality of life indicators for older persons
- Reduction in serious non-compliance and repeat breaches
- Increase trust among families and the public

Indicators of Quality of Life based on WHOQOL-OLD:

- Sensory abilities
- Autonomy
- Past, present and future activities
- Social participation
- Death and dying
- Intimacy

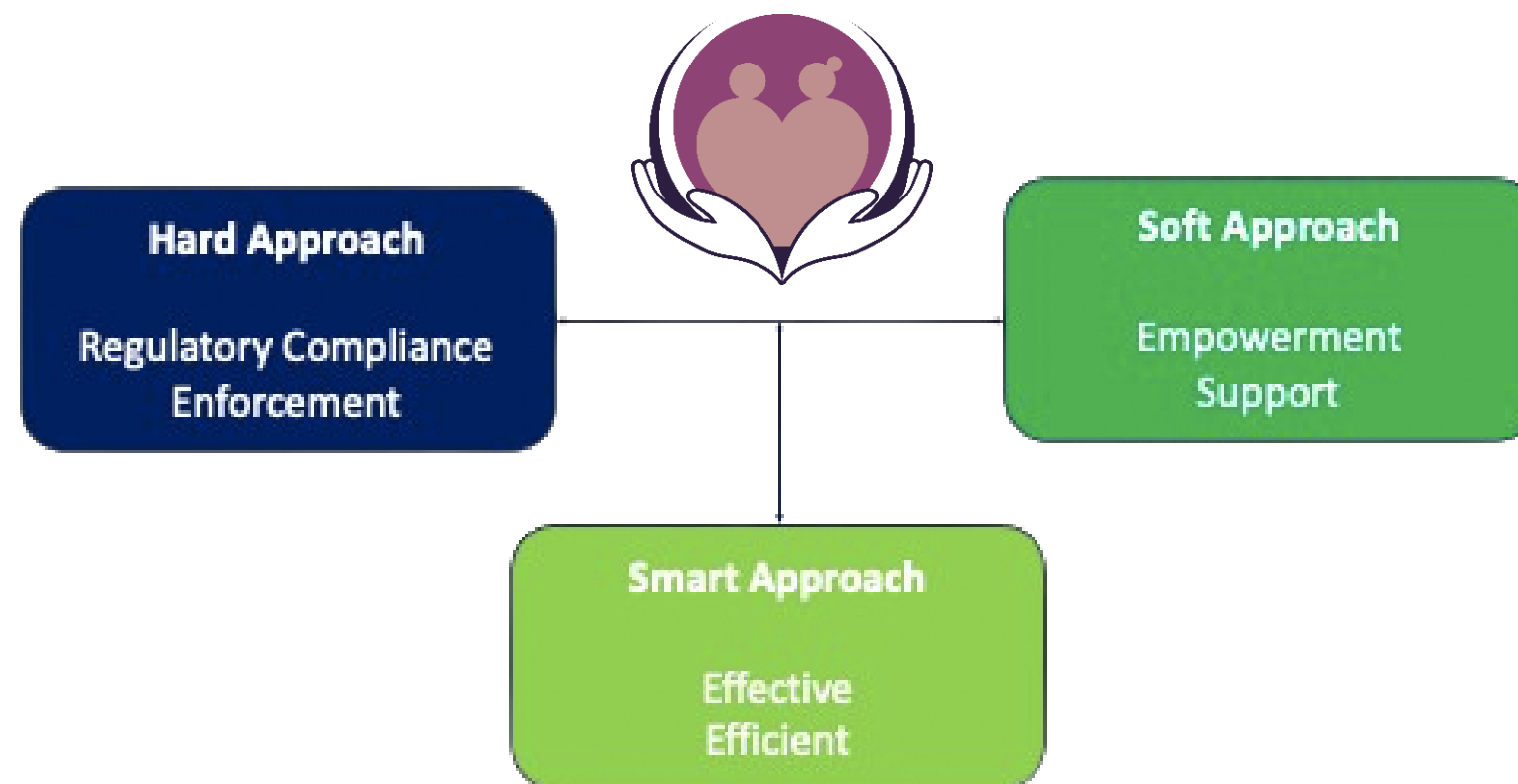


L-anzjani juru l-hiliet tagħhom fil-qalba tal-Belt Valletta



The Road Ahead

- A regulatory authority that is:
 - Firm but fair
 - Independent but collaborative
- OPSA places as a guardian of dignity and quality in later life



Closing Message

“The future of ageing in Malta depends on the choices we make today. The challenge is not how long we live but how we live it.”



THANK YOU



OPSA

Older Persons
Standards Authority



Commissioner for Older Persons

Dr Alexander Attard



Role of the Commissioner

- Collaborating with Government on issues affecting older persons
- Engaging with older people to be aware of their needs and expectations
- Research

Background

- Independent public official
- Established by Act of Parliament 2016 (Act No. X of 2016)
- Rights and Interests of Older People (defined as individuals > 60 years)
- Empower the Commissioner to investigate alleged breaches or potential infringements of these rights
- Ensure compliance with the U.N. Principles for Older Persons and other relevant international agreements.

Interaction with Government Entities

- AACC
- SVPR
- Department of Social Security
- Ministry for Health and Active Ageing
- Office of the Ombudsman
- Victim Support Agency
- Transport Malta
- Infrastructure Malta

Ageism

- Ageism is a global problem (U.N.)
- Seen in various forms
- Across all walks of life and situations
- Impacts physical and mental well being
- Work and Economic Consequences
- Consequences for Society

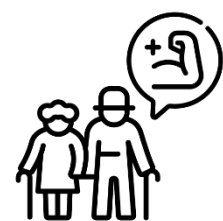
Environment

- Campaigning for a safe environment for older persons
- Working towards creating an environment conducive to active aging
- Discussion/Collaboration with the Office of the Ombudsman on Safer Access in Pedestrian Areas
- Cooperating with Transport Malta to embark on a Road Safety campaign with reference to older persons

Education



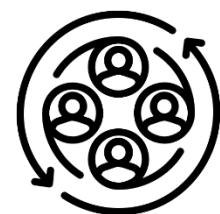
To know their **rights**.



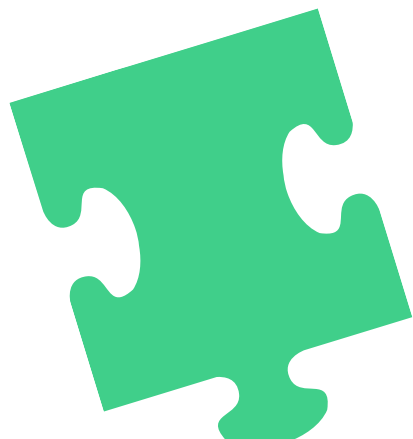
To stay **healthy**.



To remain **active**.

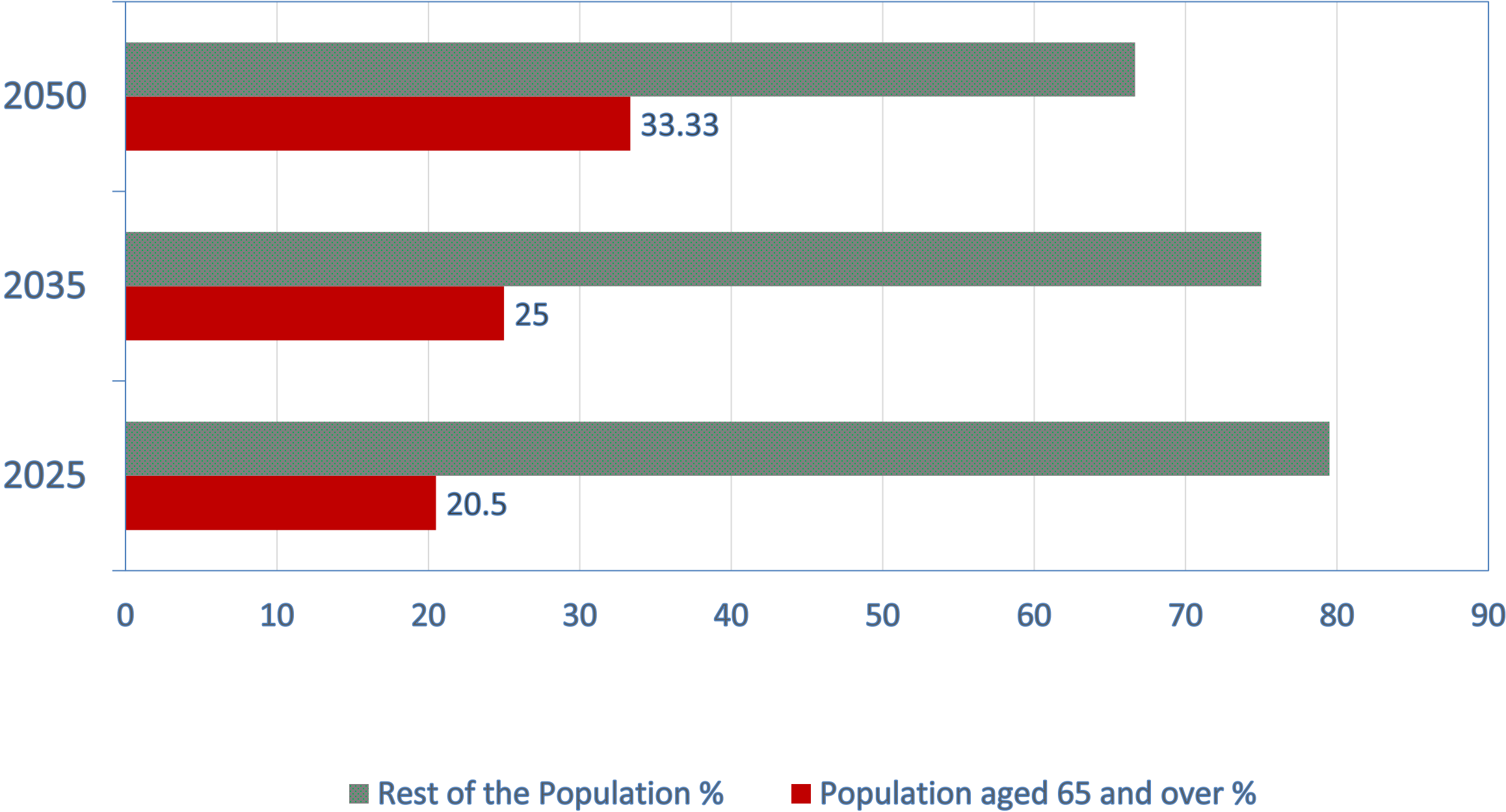


To engage in the **community**.



THE FUTURE

Population aged 65 years and over (as % of Total Population)



The Future: Opportunities and Challenges

- Pension sustainability
- Workforce & Retirement
- Care demand
- Social impact

Council for Older Persons

- Chaired by the Commissioner
- One person appointed by the Health Minister
- One person appointed by the Education Minister
- One person appointed by the National Commission for Active Ageing
- Two persons appointed by the National Council for the Elderly

THANK YOU



WORKSHOPS

1. Fostering Collaboration between Entities within Health and Beyond
 2. Strengthening Community Services and Rehabilitation Services
 3. Quality Care in Long Term Care
 4. Digital Future in Active Ageing
- 
- 