



MALTA

“ Not much change in the vision, policy and overall performance on international cooperation ”

By The national platform for Maltese NGOs - SKOP

Main trends

The preliminary figures for 2022 published by OECD DAC show that the overall ODA expenditure has decreased for the second year running and the ODA/GNI percentage is back to 2019 levels. Multilateral expenditure has remained practically unchanged although it is not possible to analyse micro-level changes until detailed reports are published.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs seems to have maintained its focus on very small ‘pre-defined’ projects in Ghana and Ethiopia. It has also continued to support the scholarship scheme for students hailing from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to enrol for Master and PhD courses on Islands and Small State Studies. This collaboration with the University of Malta and in favour of SIDS citizens is a good practice that has the potential of gaining traction in the years to come.

Government's relationship with civil society

Dialogue with Maltese civil society during 2022 did not improve, although positive channels of communication have been re-established in 2023. The decision to fund only ‘pre-defined’ projects between 2020 and 2022 has taken away the ownership, as well as the right of initiative, of Maltese NGOs. More importantly, it has put aside longstanding partnerships with community-based organisations that had been receiving support from the ODA programme since 2009. Furthermore, the lack of a detailed report on ODA expenditure published publicly is a hugely limiting factor and indicates limited willingness to increase transparency and accountability.

Reported ODA: EUR 40 million

0.28% GNI (↓ from 0.33% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 6 million

0.04% GNI (↓ from 0.08% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 34 million

85.6% of total



The Maltese government should:

- Increase the transparency of yearly ODA reporting by an in-depth and comprehensive report on Malta's overall ODA spending.
- Improve aid effectiveness by ensuring predictability and multiannual programming for the funds allocated to high quality poverty eradication projects proposed by Maltese CSOs and by raising awareness of the development impact of Maltese CSOs.
- Support CSOs in increasing their capacity to implement and monitor projects that are fully focused on the LNOB principles and give Maltese CSOs the right of initiative to propose development projects that address the rights and needs of those most at risk in ODA recipient countries.
- Engage with Maltese civil society and development stakeholders in an assessment of the Maltese ODA programme and policy, with the aim to evaluate and reform the geographical and thematic focuses as well as their effectiveness.