



As the Individual Investment Programme comes to an end, we can look back and observe how the investment generated has given a great boost to the Maltese economy. In six years of its existence, the accumulated investment has reached approximately €1.5 billion.

Despite the obvious economic benefits and the opportunity for better social development for Malta and for the Maltese, the Government has paid attention to the recommendations given by all the stakeholders involved and the EU Commission and availed itself to the constructive opinions of all those who provided them. The Government is acting in a rational manner because citizenship is indeed a matter that deserves to be treated without divisive blinkers. There is no political hue that should be attributed to it.

Neither should such a fundamental concept: the attribution of citizenship, be up to any authority other than the Maltese to decide upon. Much to our disappointment, our initiatives have found themselves harshly politicised. The arguments being raised against the previous programme are largely political, with little to no legal substance to them. Nonetheless, we have revised our initiatives, and we have introduced more stringent conditions which must be satisfied by those seeking to become Maltese citizens.

The voice of the few is sometimes louder than the voice of the many. In fact, most Maltese were found to be in favour of such initiatives, especially during the pandemic scenario, when many businesses faced severe economic threats and sought state incentives to stay afloat.

The social aspect of such initiatives are also another major reason why many people approve of direct foreign investment. By means of the funds deposited in the National Development & Social Fund (NDSF), investment projects of around €91.5 million have been announced in areas concerning health, social housing and sports, among others.

One of the most prominent investments is the agreement through which the government has allocated €5 million to the Puttinu Cares Foundation, for investment in more London apartments that are closely located to Great Ormond Street Hospital.

By means of NDSF funds, the Government was able to inaugurate the recently upgraded Cardiac Catheterisation Suites at Mater Dei Hospital. The same funds were utilised to purchase wheelchairs and motorised mattresses for residents at St Vincent de Paul. Funds from foreign direct investment have been used to finance the cleaning and sterilising of government housing estates in times of a global pandemic and memorandum of understanding will be signed between the Housing Authority and the NDSF to build social housing apartments.



A further €1.5 million grant was allocated to Caritas in order to regenerate its facilities. Moreover, the Government will be able to conduct an innovative investment in environmental projects within three urban area, with a total investment of around €4 million. An unprecedented investment in community policing has also been another initiative brought forward through such funding.

In order to address the digital divide and to best mitigate the negative effects of the global pandemic, students pertaining to less affluent families were provided with free technology, in order to be able to connect and follow home-schooling as well as their peers.

These are all reasons why the Government believes that the only way is forward. We will not simply shelve initiatives that are proving to be beneficial to our society, but we will improve them. We have always displayed an attitude of dialogue on national and international levels, both with stakeholders and with the European Commission itself.

We remain eager to communicate our intentions in a detailed and open manner, for as long as necessary, in order to keep on reaping the benefits and continue receiving direct investment for the benefit of our country & our people.

Alex Muscat

Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship & Communities