



**AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION**

**BETWEEN**

**THE MINISTRY FOR THE FAMILY AND SOCIAL  
SOLIDARITY  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF SOLIDARITY, EMPLOYMENT  
AND SOCIAL SECURITY  
OF PORTUGAL**

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1. The Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity of the Republic of Malta and the Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security of Portugal,

- in expression of their will to establish and develop active relations between both Ministries in the area of family and social policies;
- confirming their determination to join efforts towards developing a beneficial bilateral cooperation through exchange and sharing of the best national experiences;
- and to exploit the peer learning processes, namely through the efficient use of the structural and investment funds;

have signed in Lisbon, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aiming to stimulate the exchange of good practice, information and where possible implement joint initiatives and/or projects.

This MoU proposes the possibility of both countries adopting bi-annual Operational Cooperation Programmes monitored by a Monitoring Group in which the issues considered as priority for both countries be dealt with during the two years covered by each Programme.

2. The Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity of the Republic of Malta and the Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security of Portugal, hereby agree that the first bi-annual Operational Cooperation Programme proposed in the MoU shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

3. The Ministries of both countries further agree that as proposed in the MoU, a Monitoring Group is to be set up to oversee the implementation of the first bi-annual Programme. The Group shall be responsible for the drafting, and the monitoring of, the development of the activities foreseen in the Programme and to prepare an interim synthesis of the progress achieved and a final report. These reports shall also serve as basis for the drafting of the next Operational Cooperation Programme running from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

4. The Monitoring Group mentioned in 3) shall include:

- a representative of the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity of the Republic of Malta;
- a representative of the Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security of Portugal;
- two experts each from both countries nominated by their respective Ministers;
- any other experts that, due to specific topics, are considered important by the Minister of each country.

5. The activities planned for the first Operational Cooperation Programme mentioned in 2) are:

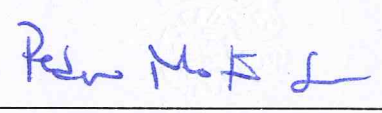
- visit by Maltese delegation to Portugal and meeting between Ministers of both countries in Lisbon;
- exchange of legislative acts, information, research and practices in relation to various aspects of social security, poverty reduction, social welfare and social innovation of both countries;
- discuss common approaches in relation to the social dimension of the European Union;

- assist in the preparation of projects related to the quality of life for people with disabilities;
- discuss and exchange strategies and practices in the areas of inter-generational cooperation, voluntary work, social services and active ageing;
- analysis of the models of cooperation between government administrations and non-governmental organisations and the role of NGOs in the provision of social services for the state and for communities (social public partnerships);
- meeting of the Monitoring Group in Malta.

6. This Agreement was signed in Lisbon, Portugal, on the 25th of February 2015.

MINISTER FOR FAMILY AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY OF MALTA	MINISTER OF SOLIDARITY, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY OF PORTUGAL
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