

Qualitative Feedback for Project - 2024-2-MT01-KA210-VET-000270841
Project Comments

Following are the comments pertaining to the project Final Report assessment for your consideration. This feedback is intended to contribute directly to the improvement of the quality of this project initiative and future applications.

Relevance:	18
The project demonstrates a very high level of relevance to the objectives and priorities of the Erasmus+ programme, particularly within the VET sector. The proposal is grounded in a clearly identified labour market need, namely the difficulty faced by SMEs, migrant entrepreneurs, and young people in accessing and managing local and EU funding opportunities. The needs analysis is well justified through continuous dialogue with members and reinforced through primary research conducted by all partner organisations. The project shows strong alignment with the Erasmus+ priority of adapting vocational education and training to labour market needs, while also addressing horizontal priorities such as inclusion and diversity, adult learning, and support for disadvantaged groups. The transnational partnership adds clear European value, with partners from Malta and Portugal contributing complementary expertise and adapting the EU Helpdesk model to different target audiences. The objectives are coherent, realistic, and strongly linked to the identified needs, while the planned activities and outputs directly support the achievement of these objectives. In particular, the establishment of sustainable EU Helpdesks and the development of transferable tools such as the Manual of Procedures and EU Helpdesk Manual significantly strengthen the project's long-term relevance and potential for replication. The project also demonstrates good policy relevance through references to EU priorities relating to SME competitiveness, employability, and access to skills and finance. However, while the project clearly contributes to labour market development and capacity building, the link to vocational education and training could have been articulated more explicitly throughout the report. In some sections, the project appears more focused on business support and funding access	

than directly on VET methodologies or vocational learning outcomes. Additionally, the innovative dimension of the Helpdesk model could have been explained in greater depth.

Quality of the project implementation

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The project demonstrates a very strong quality of implementation overall. The activities were logically structured, well planned, and effectively linked to the project objectives. The report presents clear evidence that the consortium established appropriate management, coordination, monitoring, and quality assurance mechanisms throughout the project lifecycle. The creation of a dedicated Project Management Team (PMT), regular partner meetings, detailed implementation plans, timelines, and monitoring tools contributed significantly to the smooth and timely delivery of all activities and outputs. Responsibilities among partners were clearly distributed according to each organisation's expertise and target groups, while communication and collaboration appear to have functioned very effectively throughout the project.

The implementation methodology is particularly strong in its evidence-based approach. The project began with primary research among target groups, and the findings were directly used to shape the development of the EU Helpdesks and their operational procedures. This demonstrates a clear alignment between needs analysis, activity design, and implementation. The transnational cooperation was meaningful and well integrated into the implementation process, particularly through the TPM in Portugal and the collaborative development of the Manual of Procedures. The project also demonstrates good flexibility and responsiveness, as evidenced by the development of the additional EU Helpdesk Manual to strengthen dissemination and transferability beyond the original application plans.

The quality of the outputs appears high and well documented. The Research Report, Manual of Procedures, Sessions Report, bilateral agreement, dissemination materials, and EU Helpdesk Manual collectively demonstrate substantial work and tangible results. The dissemination strategy was particularly comprehensive, combining formal and informal dissemination activities, social media outreach, events, press engagement, and stakeholder involvement at local, national, and European levels. The integration of evaluation measures, including participant feedback, partner evaluations, and PMT reporting, further strengthens the quality assurance dimension of the project.

The project also demonstrates strong sustainability measures. The establishment of permanent EU Helpdesks within partner organisations, supported by operational procedures and continued institutional commitment, indicates that project results are likely to continue beyond the funding period. Furthermore, the project successfully addressed Erasmus+ horizontal priorities, including inclusion, digital transformation, and civic participation, through practical and well-integrated measures.

Nevertheless, there are some minor areas where the implementation could have been strengthened further. While the monitoring and evaluation processes are extensive, the report relies heavily on descriptive evidence and would benefit from more quantitative indicators demonstrating impact and effectiveness, such as measurable increases in funding applications or participation outcomes. Additionally, although dissemination activities were extensive, the long-term exploitation strategy at European level could have been elaborated further, particularly regarding replication by external organisations.

Quality of the partnership:	17
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The partnership demonstrates a very high level of quality and complementarity, with all participating organisations contributing relevant expertise, experience, and target group access that directly supported the successful implementation of the project. The consortium composition is coherent and well balanced, bringing together a national employers' association, a migrant-focused NGO, and a youth-focused organisation from Portugal. Each partner contributed distinct strengths and perspectives that clearly complemented one another and enhanced the overall European added value of the project.

The Malta Employers' Association played a strong coordinating role as lead beneficiary, demonstrating effective management capacity and substantial expertise in representing employers and identifying labour market needs. CCIF contributed valuable experience in working with migrants, refugees, and vulnerable groups, ensuring that inclusion and diversity were genuinely embedded throughout the project implementation. Check-In brought strong expertise in youth work, community engagement, and the implementation of EU-funded projects, while also providing an important transnational dimension to the partnership. The report clearly demonstrates that all partners actively contributed to

project activities, dissemination, research, monitoring, and implementation, rather than operating in a purely symbolic capacity.

Cooperation and communication mechanisms appear to have been very effective throughout the project. The establishment of a dedicated Project Management Team, regular online and in-person meetings, detailed agendas and minutes, shared digital systems, and clear division of responsibilities all contributed to smooth implementation and strong coordination. The partnership also demonstrates a good balance between shared participation and centralised decision-making, ensuring both inclusiveness and accountability. Importantly, the report provides convincing evidence of continuous collaboration between partners during the planning, implementation, monitoring, and dissemination phases of the project.

The transnational cooperation added genuine value to the project. Partners not only exchanged practices and expertise but also adapted the EU Helpdesk concept to different national and target-group contexts. This strengthened the quality and transferability of the outputs and contributed to the development of a more inclusive and adaptable support model. The bilateral agreement between Malta Employers and CCIF further demonstrates a practical and sustainable outcome arising directly from the partnership cooperation.

The partnership also appears highly committed to the sustainability of project results, with all organisations integrating the Helpdesk services into their long-term operations. This demonstrates strong ownership of the project outcomes and reinforces confidence in the continued impact of the partnership beyond the funding period.

Only minor weaknesses are evident. While the cooperation mechanisms are very well described, the report could provide more critical reflection on any operational challenges encountered during transnational collaboration and how these were addressed. Additionally, the role of Check-In within some dissemination and exploitation activities could have been described in slightly greater detail to further demonstrate balanced visibility among all partners.

Impact:**26**

The project demonstrates a strong level of impact at organisational, participant, and partnership levels, with clear evidence that the activities generated meaningful and sustainable benefits for the identified target groups. The establishment of two fully operational EU Helpdesks represents a significant and tangible project outcome with long-term potential. The Helpdesks directly address identified barriers faced by SMEs, migrant entrepreneurs, youth, and vulnerable groups in accessing local and EU funding opportunities, thereby contributing to improved organisational capacity, employability, entrepreneurship, and participation in funding programmes.

The impact on participating organisations is particularly strong. The project enabled partners to expand and professionalise the support services offered to their members through the development of structured operational procedures, tailored support mechanisms, and increased expertise in funding-related guidance. The project also strengthened cooperation between partners and created lasting institutional links, most notably through the bilateral agreement between Malta Employers and CCIF. The integration of the Helpdesks into the permanent operations of partner organisations demonstrates a high level of sustainability and indicates that the project outcomes are likely to continue generating benefits well beyond the project lifetime.

The impact on target groups is well evidenced throughout the report. The information and training sessions appear to have generated high engagement and positive participant feedback, confirming the relevance and value of the support services established. The project successfully reached diverse audiences, including SMEs, employers, HR professionals, migrant entrepreneurs, refugees, youth, NGOs, and social partners. The tailored approach adopted through the categorisation of users according to their knowledge and experience levels further strengthened the project's ability to respond effectively to participant needs. In particular, the inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as migrants, third-country nationals, and young people with fewer opportunities significantly enhances the project's social impact.

The dissemination and exploitation strategy is comprehensive and contributes positively to the project's wider impact. The consortium implemented a broad range of dissemination activities, including social media campaigns, conferences, launch events, press coverage, newsletters, brochures,

multiplier events, and stakeholder engagement activities at local, national, and European levels. The development of the EU Helpdesk Manual as a transferable tool for other organisations substantially strengthens the project's potential for replication and broader European impact. The involvement of networks such as SGI Europe further supports the visibility and transferability of project results beyond the immediate partnership.

The project also demonstrates strong alignment with Erasmus+ horizontal priorities, including inclusion and diversity, digital transformation, and civic participation, which further reinforces its wider societal impact. The use of digital dissemination and management tools improved accessibility and outreach, while the project's governance and consultation mechanisms promoted stakeholder participation and collaborative engagement.

Some minor weaknesses are nevertheless evident. While participant feedback and dissemination statistics are presented, the report could have included more measurable long-term impact indicators, such as evidence of increased funding applications, successful grants obtained by beneficiaries, or measurable improvements in organisational performance resulting from the Helpdesk services. In addition, although the replication potential is strong, a more detailed European exploitation strategy involving concrete follow-up partnerships or networks would have strengthened the assessment further.

Comments for the beneficiary:

The project seems to have been successfully implemented and demonstrates strong relevance, inclusion, sustainability, and partnership cooperation. The establishment of two permanent EU Helpdesks provided tangible added value to SMEs, migrant entrepreneurs, youth, and vulnerable groups by improving access to local and EU funding opportunities. The consortium showed effective project management, strong stakeholder engagement, and meaningful transnational cooperation, while the development of additional outputs, such as the EU Helpdesk Manual, strengthened the project's sustainability and transferability. The project was particularly strong in addressing inclusion and diversity through targeted support for disadvantaged groups and the removal of barriers to participation. Dissemination activities were extensive and ensured strong visibility and outreach at local, national, and European levels.



Areas for improvement include providing stronger links to vocational education and training outcomes, using more quantitative indicators to demonstrate long-term impact, and strengthening the project's digital and green dimensions as core thematic components rather than mainly operational measures.

Has the quality assessment threshold been reached?	Yes
Total Score	87

B Schembri

Brian Schembri
Programme Manager