

Proposal to participate in the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Policy Support Programme (PSP) - Objective 1.4: e-Accessibility thematic network

The MCA was established on 1st January 2001. The Authority's mission and mandate are derived from the Malta Communications Authority Act of 2001. In addition to the regulation of electronic communications systems and services, the MCA is also responsible for the regulation of postal Services and is also the competent authority for the supervision of information society service providers established in Malta, as defined in the Electronic Commerce Act of 2001.

The MCA is also responsible for the regulation of radio communications, including the management and monitoring of the radio frequency spectrum and for the technical matters related to the management of licences for equipment that radio frequency assignment.

The primary role of the MCA is to enable choice and value for money for consumers. In addition, the Authority has a strategic role to promote sectoral investment by creating an environment that is conducive to business and that ensures sustainability of competition. The Authority also reviews authorisations, resolves disputes, and in general ensures the well being of the markets it regulates. It has obligations to the consumer relating to prices, standard of services and availability of services.

In July 2008, MCA's remit was extended to include the implementation of the national policy on information society fields including, the connected society and e-Business and growth. In line with this new function, the MCA has been mandated to implement, over the coming years, most of the initiatives featured under strategic spokes 1,2 and 6 of the SmartIsland Strategy.

MCA has been mandated by Government to:

1. **Strengthen access to ICTs within the community** by building on the existent concept of Community Technology Learning Centres to serve as access, awareness and educational nodes for their constituents, relaying the benefits of the information society.
2. **Ensure accessibility for all** by presenting ICTs as an equalising instrument that facilitates integration into society to enable everyone to benefit of the information society and economy through legal and regulatory measures as well as through the availability of assistive technologies.
3. **Promote e-Ageing for smart senior citizens** through an innovative programme to promote involvement of senior citizens in the information society and enhancing the mainstreaming of age-friendly ICTs.

Further Information

If you have any questions or comments, please contact bernard.agius@mca.org.mt

For information on the theSmartIsland Strategy, visit www.thesmartisland.gov.mt. For information on the Ministry for Infrastructure, Technology and Communications (MITC), visit www.mitc.gov.mt.