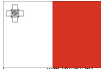





ERDF 114 Maltese Text to Speech Synthesis

	<p>Operational Programme I – Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 <i>Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life</i> Project part-financed by the European Union European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Co-financing rate: 85% EU Funds; 15% National Funds <i>Investing in your future</i></p>	
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Project outline



- The Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA) applied for and was granted funding to develop a Maltese Speech Engine which will enable computers and other ICT devices to produce and understand spoken Maltese.

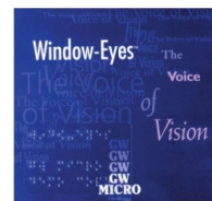


Present Technologies

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- This technology already exists today for a number of languages, including English.
- Up until now, Maltese speakers, including school children, illiterate persons and disabled persons, have had to depend on these alternative languages.



But these are in spoken English

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This means that all information services and media based around Maltese electronic text, remain inaccessible to all these user groups.

Merhba ghal website ta' Centrelink.

Ghandna xi tagħrif li int tista' ssibu utli u li hu bil-Malti.
Biex tara dan it-tagħrif, ikollok bżonn tuża l-programm tal-kompjuter magħruf bħala Adobe Acrobat Reader li hu bla hlas.
Ahna qed nahdmu hafna biex nagħmluha ehfef għalik biex tinnaviga fil-website tagħna u tikseb it-tagħrif tagħna bil-Malti.
Biex titkellem ma' Centrelink bil-Malti, cempel 13 1202. Il-Nisijiet ta' telefonati mit-telefon ta' darek għan-numri "13" ta' Centrelink ivarjaw u dejjem jiddependi mill-provveditur tiegħek tas-servizz ta' telefon. Telefonati għan-numri "1800" mit-telefon ta' darek huma bla hlas. Telefonati minn telefonijiet pubblici u dawk tal-mobile jkun cčargjati b'rata oġġla.



Project Components

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Project Component	Status
Project Management	Commenced June 2009
Studies	To be concluded in April 2010
Maltese speech engine	Awaiting adjudication
Formal Launch	Q4 2012

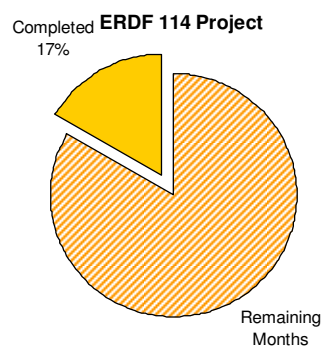


Present stage of Project

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- Presently the project has completed 17% of its overall target duration of 30 months.
- The next major stage is the actual software development.



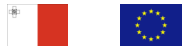
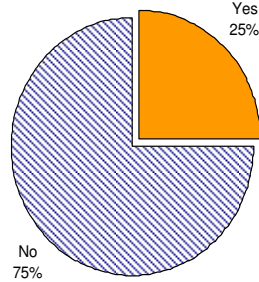
Surveys component

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- A preliminary qualitative survey was conducted by FITA and has been completed.
- Two CATI surveys have been conducted, one households, the other companies, which are ready for analysis and publication.
- An online survey will soon be launched as the final stage of the survey component.

Currently use voice enabled technologies (VET)



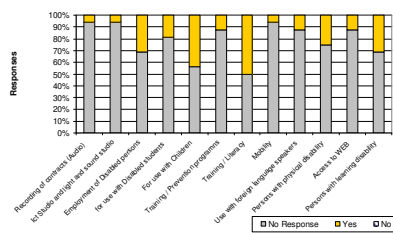
Qualitative Survey

FITA

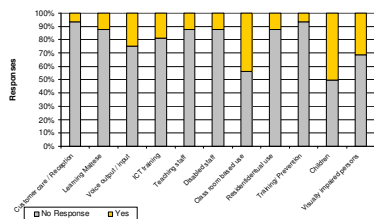
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- The direct beneficiaries of VET as identified through the qualitative survey, include illiterate persons, school children, the elderly, clerical workers, teachers and trainers, disabled persons and foreign language speakers that wish to learn Maltese.
- Of the 93.75% that responded positively, eleven different categories of potential applications were identified

Current applications for VET



Potential applications for VET



Invitation to participate



FITA welcomes your participation in a survey which will be made available online.

Should wish to participate please contact me on roger.davies-barrett@gov.mt and I will forward you the URL for the online survey.



FITa

Thank you

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