



MALTAENTERPRISE

Entrepreneurship Route

Introduction

- The Business Start and Startup Finance are intended for Start-up endeavours, providing financial assistance to small ventures and established start-ups looking to expand further their economic activity
- These schemes allow liquidity in the company either through a cash grant in case of Bstart or a repayable advance in case of Start-up Finance.

Introduction

- Only the Start-up Finance offers front financing assistance, noting that the company is expected to have managed to raise the remaining capital to implement project.
- Apart from ME schemes, there are also other measures such as financial instruments offered through MDB-backed loans or supported loans from commercial banks. Other measures include ERDF and ESF funding managed by other entities such as Jobsplus and Fondi.eu



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Business Start

Business Start

Early seed funding for small start-ups that:

- have a viable business concept
- want further develop their business proposal

Overview

Objective	Business Start provides early seed funding for small start-ups that have an economically feasible business concept to further develop their business proposal prior to seeking further funding or third-party equity
Type of Aid	Cash Grant
Maximum Aid	€10,000
Deadline for Applications	31st October 2026

Who can apply?

Falling within the GBER definition:

A Start-Up Undertaking shall be any unlisted small enterprise up to 5 years following its registration

AND

- Apply within 36 months from date of establishment
- Founders must not have interests in other undertakings, in the same or related sector that exceed 25%
- Owners have not been involved in an undertaking in the same or related sector that has closed down in the 12 months preceding its establishment date.

Supported Business Formats

- Self Employed registered with Jobsplus
- Registered Partnerships (MBR)
- Registered Limited Liability Companies
- Cooperatives

Applying for Support

Application – Feasibility Report

- a. start-up formation
- b. the business opportunity,
- c. details on the product/service
- d. information on the market, competitive landscape
- e. operations and financials
- f. the Team

Eligibility Criteria

Activity: Manufacturing | Software development | Industrial services analogous to manufacturing | Health, Biotechnology, Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences

Knowledge of the key persons

Potential to generate income from various geographical markets

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Evaluation Criteria

Key Criteria

Commercial Feasibility | Financial Feasibility |
Technologically Feasible

Other Criteria

Innovation | Market | Process |
Knowledge/Know-how

Disbursements

1st Tranche - €3,000

- on return of signed LOA
- 1 registered employee on full/part time, residing in Malta

2nd Tranche - €3,500

- on submission of a business plan and retaining employment

3rd Tranche - €3,500

- within 3 months of approval of Business Plan and retaining employment
- have a business address from where business shall be carried out

Potential Application Pitfalls

- Clarity and depth of information
- Explaining the potential of proposed business
- Relevance of Market research
- Is there growth potential beyond the local market
- Team Skills covering multiple aspects of the business
- Consistency of information and detail provided



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Questions?

For further information contact

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www.maltaenterprise.com



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Start-Up Finance

Introduction

Start-Up Finance

Support Small Start-up Undertakings that demonstrate a viable business concept and that exhibit commitment to expand and further develop their economic activity in Malta.

Who can apply?

Limited liability company (or similar organisation having limited liability) established within the European Union and with an operating base in Malta.

GBER definition of Start Up Undertaking:

A Start-Up Undertaking shall be any unlisted small enterprise up to 5 years following its registration



Eligible Activities

- Manufacturing
- Software Development
- Industrial services analogous to manufacturing
- Health, Biotech, Pharmaceutical Life Sciences
- Other innovative economic activities which are **enabled through knowledge and technology providing services or products which are currently not readily available** in the relevant market or which shall be provided through a process which is novel.

Disqualifying Criteria

- Undertakings that are subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid granted by Malta illegal or incompatible with the internal market
- Undertakings that are also engaged in any of the following activities:
 - a. Real estate
 - b. Gambling
 - c. Wholesale or retail trade of goods or services

Aid Thresholds and Form of Aid

Repayable Advance

Type of Applicant	Support
Small Start-up	€500,000
Innovative Enterprise	€1,000,000
Start-up operating from an assisted area	€750,000
Innovative Enterprise operating from an assisted area	€1,500,000

Innovative Enterprise

Applicants that meet one of the following criteria:

- a. can demonstrate, by means of an evaluation carried out by an external expert that it will in the foreseeable future develop products, services or processes which are new or substantially improved compared to the state of the art in its industry, and which carry a risk of technological or industrial failure
- b. the research and development costs of which represent at least 10% of its total operating costs in at least one of the three years preceding the granting of the aid or, in the case of a start-up enterprise without any financial history, in the audit of its current fiscal period, as certified by an external auditor

Support Costs Categories

The Corporation may provide funding to cover **up to 75%** of the following:

- a. Co-Investment in Payroll Costs
- b. Procurement of tangible and intangible assets
- c. Procurement of materials, and of specialised and technical services
- d. Support for establishing an operation in Malta



Application Process

- Deadline for Applications: **30th September 2026**
- Application form
- Business Plan
- Workbook with financial forecasts and other Annexes
- Applicants may be asked to deliver a presentation to the Corporation
- Submission through the Client Portal
- Approval must be issued within 60 months from date of Registration.

Applicants are advised to approach Malta Enterprise and speak to a Relationship Manager before submission of an application.

Disbursements, Premium & Redemption

- Disbursements shall be affected at intervals of not less than 3 months.
- A mid-term review of the project will take place to monitor implementation and meeting of targets.
- Annual premium of 2% over ECB – set on the beginning of the year in review.
- Beneficiary shall enter into an agreement to repay any funds advanced – a minimum of 10% of pre-tax profits per annum.

Implementation

- Deadlines to be respected as stipulated in the approval letter, such as the deadline to countersign the letter
- Claims to be submitted within the established parameters of the approval letter including all the necessary documentation to process claim
- Changes in project which do not have material impact on its purpose, scope and duration have to be communicated beforehand through a 'Request for Change' process. This is both applicable to changes within and outside the beneficiaries' control

Implementation

- Changes in project's purpose, scope or duration might lead to a re-evaluation or revocation of support granted. Therefore, it is important that project is well defined prior to submitting it for consideration.
- As part of the implementation process, onsite visits are carried out to determine the aid tied to the physical project in a defined location.
- Changes in shareholding structure due to investment should always be communicated with the Corporation.
- Changes in forecasted costs cannot be considered as support would already have been notified



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Thank you | Questions?

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