



MALTAENTERPRISE

Research and Innovation Schemes

Innovate: Innovation Aid for SMEs

Support for small and medium sized enterprises

- to improve their innovation performance through access to Highly Qualified Personnel and collaborations with Research and Knowledge Dissemination Organisations.

Introduction

Support aimed at:

- Accelerating innovation, enhancing business performance and driving competitive advantage.
- Helping SMEs to carry out projects leading to product, process and organisational innovation
- Fostering collaboration between businesses and a Research and Knowledge Dissemination Organisation, through innovation advisory services and innovation support services.

Supported Projects

- Supported project may receive funding of up to Eur250,000 per project, covering 50% of eligible costs.
- Scheme is available till 31st December 2026. Any aid must be approved prior to the date.

Eligible Projects

- The scheme supports collaborations between businesses and Research and Knowledge-Dissemination Organisations.
- This measure supports innovation actions that are expected to lead to the creation, development and implementation of a new product, process or service, with the aim of improving efficiency, effectiveness or competitive advantage and/or the development of more sustainable products and services.

Eligible Costs

Secondment of highly qualified personnel from a Research and Knowledge-Dissemination Organisation

- The costs of highly qualified personnel seconded from a Research and Knowledge-Dissemination Organisation, engaged on research, development and innovation projects in a newly created function within the beneficiary and not replacing other personnel.
- The secondment can be on full-time or part-time basis.
- Support up to fifty percent (50%) capped at (€2,500) per month.

Eligible Costs

Innovation Advisory Services

- Costs incurred for consultancy, assistance or training in the fields of knowledge transfer, acquisition, protection or exploitation of intangible assets or the use of standards and regulations embedding them, as well as knowledge on the introduction or use of innovative technologies and solutions (including digital technologies and solutions).
- Innovation Advisory services may be provided by Highly Qualified Personnel or Research and Knowledge-Dissemination Organisations.
- Support up to fifty percent (50%)

Eligible Costs

Innovation Support Services

- Costs related to the provision of data banks, cloud and data storage services, libraries, market research, laboratories, quality labelling, testing, experimentation and certification or other related services.
- Eligible costs need to be linked to the objectives of a secondment of a Highly Qualified person or have been recommended through Innovation Advisory Services provided by a Research and Knowledge-Dissemination Organisation.
- Support up to fifty percent (50%)

How to Apply

Applications together with the required documentation are to be submitted through the client portal and should reach the corporation by 30th October 2026

- if a full application has been submitted, **prior to issuing a final decision**, the Corporation may provide formal consent to Applicants to start the project 'at their own risk'
- Starting the project without the approval of the Corporation shall render the application as ineligible.

Evaluation

The evaluation will take into consideration

- the relevance of the innovation actions to the development and/or improvement of products and/or services of the applicant;
- the expected growth in business activity and employment to result from the planned innovation actions;
- the improved environmental sustainability targets of the planned innovation actions.

After Project Approval

- Supported projects must commence within 12 months from date the funding is approved and be implemented within 36 months
- Beneficiaries will be required to submit at least one annual report and a final report at the end of the secondment detailing the work carried out and achievements.
- Any modification to an approved project must be notified to Malta Enterprise and formal consent needs to be received, prior to being applied



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Questions?

Exploring Research Grant

Support for conducting feasibility studies

- in relation to Research and Development activities which have a viable business concept

Introduction

Support aimed at helping beneficiaries to:

- review the current scientific or technical knowledge in the area of research;
- conduct searches to identify research partners, existing Intellectual Property and knowledge that could support the R&D activity;
- establish the resources required, risks and potential return on investment of the envisaged R&D project.

Supported Projects

- Feasibility Study shall be carried out in preparation of industrial research and experimental development activities which would lead to growth in terms of business activity, employment and knowledge
- The project should result in a report highlighting the activities carried out and a project plan that forms the basis of an R&D project)
- Supported projects must be implemented within 52 weeks

Eligible Applicants

- Registered Partnerships (MBR)
- Registered Limited Liability Companies
- Cooperatives

Exclusions

- The incentive is not applicable to activities excluded by the GBER.
- Undertakings in Difficulty
- Research and knowledge dissemination organisations
- Public Entities
- Undertaking which is subject to an outstanding recovery order
- Undertakings having Tax, VAT, SS payment dues

Maximum Support

Support

Malta Enterprise may support the implementation of a feasibility study with a cash grant of up to one hundred thousand euro (€100,000) which shall be capped at:

Large Undertaking

50% of Eligible Costs

Medium Undertaking

60% of Eligible Costs

Small Undertaking

70% of Eligible Costs

Eligible Cos

- **Wages of researchers, technicians and other support staff:**
based on time directly employed on the project (capped at Euro80,000 per annum)
- **Contractual research, technical knowledge and patents *bought or licensed* from outside sources at arm's length conditions**
- **Other operating expenses** – such as materials, supplies, tools and equipment required for the project

How to Apply

Applications together with the required documentation are to be submitted through the client portal and should reach the corporation by 30th October 2026

- if a full application has been submitted, **prior to issuing a final decision**, the Corporation may provide formal consent to Applicants to start the project 'at their own risk'
- Starting the project without the approval of the Corporation shall render the application as ineligible.

Applying for Support

The Submission shall include:

- a. the application form
- b. the CVs of the persons involved in the project
- c. quotations and agreements
- d. financial statements
- e. tax compliance certificate
- f. a business plan (if the undertaking has been established for less than 5 years or employs less than 5 FT employees)



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Questions?

Research & Development

Support for Industrial Research and Experimental Development activities

- required by industry for the acquisition of knowledge leading to the development of innovative products and solutions.

Support

- Projects may be supported through **grants, tax credits or a combination of grants and tax credits**
- Support is processed on end financing basis.
- When approving a grant the corporation may agree to a possibility of **front financing up to 30% of approved amount.**

Scheme is available till 31st December 2026.

Any aid must be approved prior to the date.

Eligible Projects

The scheme supports R&D activities which should be:

- aimed at new findings, based on original concepts (and their interpretation) or hypotheses
- largely uncertain about the final outcome (risk)
- planned for and budgeted.

Projects should lead to acquisition of knowledge, address uncertainties, leading to the development of innovative products and solutions and must fall with the definitions of Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development

Industrial Research

Planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or aimed at bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services, including digital products, processes or services, in any area, technology, industry or sector.

Experimental Development

Acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services, including digital products, processes or services, in any area, technology, industry or sector (including, but not limited to, digital industries and technologies).

Eligible Collaborative Projects

Collaboration projects are carried out between at least two independent parties to exchange knowledge or technology, or to achieve a common objective based on the division of labour where the parties jointly define the scope of the collaborative project, contribute to its implementation and share its risks, as well as its results.

These projects may include projects accepted and endorsed by the EUREKA Network under its various instruments: Network projects, European Partnership on Innovative SMEs / Eurostars, Clusters.

Maximum Support

Enterprise Size	Experimental Development	Industrial Research
Large Undertaking	25%	50%
Medium Undertaking	35%	60%
Small Undertaking	45%	70%

Bonuses

Projects Carried out in Assisted Areas will get up to an extra 5% in aid.

Collaborative Projects and dissemination bonuses up to an extra 25%

Maximum Aid intensity cannot exceed 80%

Wages, Instruments and Equipment

- Wages of researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent to which they are employed on the project.
- Costs of instruments and equipment shall be considered as eligible to the extent and for the period used for the project.

Eligible Costs

Contractual Research

- Costs of contractual research, technical knowledge and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the research project.
- Costs of consultancy and equivalent services must be rendered by experts in the relevant field of research that have successfully completed doctoral training; universities; research and knowledge-dissemination organisations.

Eligible Costs

Other Operating Expenses

- Additional overheads and other operating expenses, including costs of materials, supplies and similar products, incurred directly as a result of the project.
- Applicants may request that operating expenditure is calculated as a flat-rate of up to 20 %, applied to total eligible R&D project costs. In this case, the R&D project costs used for the calculation of the indirect costs shall be established on the basis of normal accounting practices and shall comprise only eligible R&D project costs.

How to Apply

Applications together with the required documentation are to be submitted through the client portal and should reach the corporation by 30th September 2026

- Applicants must submit a complete application form **prior to start of works*** if a full application has been submitted , prior to issuing a final decision, the Corporation may provide formal consent to Applicants to start the project 'at their own risk'
- Starting the project without the approval of the Corporation shall render the application as ineligible.

Applying for Support

The Submission shall include:

- a. A clear description of the project, with demarcation of activities.
- b. a breakdown of the budgeted expenditure (on templates provided by the Corporation) .
- c. a project plan identifying the critical path key milestones.
- d. The CVs of persons involved in the project
- e. Financial statements of the applicant.
- f. Tax Compliance certificate.



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Thank you | Questions?

For further information contact

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