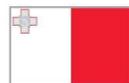


ERDF Grant Schemes Selection Criteria

Operational Programme I - *Fostering a competitive and sustainable economy to meet our challenges*

**Monitoring Committee
21st March 2017**



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Introduction

- €20M are earmarked to support enterprises under PA1 in line with the Smart Specialization.
- In line with Article 110 (2) the Regulation EU 1303/2013, the MC is hereby being today asked to examine and assess the eligibility and selection criteria for the scheme falling under PA 1.

Applicable State Aid Rules (I)

Aid for assisted Actions regulated under the General Block Exemption Regulation (Articles 25, 26 and 29)

- Feasibility Studies in preparation of R&D projects
- Research and Development Projects
- Investment in Shared Research Infrastructures
- Process Innovation

Measure 1 Feasibility Studies

To conduct a study to establish the feasibility of a planned Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development project. The study should include an evaluation and analysis of the potential of a Research and Development project, which aims at supporting the process of decision-making by objectively and rationally uncovering its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as identifying the resources required to carry it through, the resultant deliverables and ultimately its prospects for success.

Enterprise Size	Aid Intensity
Micro/small	70%
Medium	60%
Large	50%

Measure 2 Research and Development Projects

- The implementation of a Research and Development project which includes Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities conducted by an Undertaking leading to the development of an innovative product, solution or service including Key Enabling Technology at pre-commercialisation stage.
- The implementation of joint Research and Development projects involving effective collaboration, which include Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities conducted by at least two Undertakings being independent parties i.e. unrelated to each other, where at least one is an SME, leading to the development of an innovative product, solution or service including Key Enabling Technology at pre-commercialisation stage at a minimum TRL 6, and where no single undertaking bears more than 70% of the eligible costs.

Measure 2 Research and Development Projects

- The implementation of Research and Development projects involving effective collaboration, which include Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities leading to the development of an innovative product, solution or service including Key Enabling Technology at pre-commercialisation stage, conducted between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10 % of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results.
- The implementation of Research and Development projects involving effective collaboration, which include Industrial Research and/or Experimental Development activities conducted by at least two Undertakings being independent parties i.e. unrelated to each other, where the results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

Measure 2 Research and Development Projects

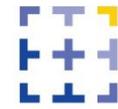
Enterprise Size	Aid Intensity	Projects involving Effective Collaboration	Maximum Aid Intensity
Micro/Small	45%	+ 15%	60%
Medium	35%	+15%	50%
Large	25%	+15%	40%

Measure 3 Investment in Shared Research Infrastructures

Support to projects implemented jointly by at least two Enterprises seeking to undertake Investment towards the construction or upgrading of Shared Research Infrastructures being facilities that support the development and exchange of knowledge, expertise and the creation of technology transfer possibilities among undertakings.

Enterprise Size	Aid Intensity
Micro Small Medium Large	50%

Measure 4 Process Innovation



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- The implementation of process innovation actions by SMEs jointly or independently.
- The implementation of process innovation actions by Large enterprises in effective collaboration with SMEs where the latter incur at least 30% of the total eligible costs.

Enterprise Size	Aid Intensity
Micro Small Medium	50%
Large *(in effective collaboration with an SME)	15%

Selection Process



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Selection Process

A number of Calls under the different Measures will be issued.

Competitive Calls

Applications attaining 50% of the total score or higher will be ranked, and funding approval will be issued to applicants in accordance with the ranking order and subject to the budget availability under the respective call.

Measure 2,3 and 4 will be managed through a series of competitive calls, issued on a periodical basis.

Open (rolling) Calls

In the case of measures administered through an open (rolling-call), after scoring, applications attaining 50% of the total score or higher will be approved for funding on a first-come-first served basis subject to the budget availability under the respective measure.

Measure 1, Feasibility Studies will be managed through an open rolling call.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria



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Gateway/Eligibility Criteria (I)

All applications under each aid measure are required to meet the minimum eligibility requirements set out under the Gateway Criteria in order that any application may be considered for assessment and appraisal for selection for funding support. This stage will involve an assessment and a Due Diligence process to establish that these minimum requirements are met.

Gateway/Eligibility Criteria (II)

Complete application form: an Undertaking must present a fully compiled application form together with all the requested supporting documentation, by the indicated deadline.

Eligibility of Undertaking: the Undertaking is an eligible Undertaking, in line with the respective guidelines and within the state aid parameters.

Eligibility of action and activities: the action for which the applicant is asking for support is eligible and includes eligible activity/activities in line with the incentive guidelines, and is assessed as covering the Smart Specialisation areas.

Match Financing: the applicant has submitted evidence as to its capacity to match finance the project.

Selection Criteria (I)

The Project Selection Committee will score each application against a set of Selection Criteria. Only applications that meet all the requirements of the gateway criteria shall proceed for assessment under the selection criteria.

All the applications will be assessed and evaluated against the selection criteria outlined hereunder, with a total Score of **100 points**.

Excellence

Impact and Sustainability

Quality and efficiency of implementation

Selection Criteria (II)

Excellence- 30 pts

Clarity and pertinence of the objective – 10 pts

The application will be assessed on its clarity of the scope and objectives and its strategic importance to the undertaking and its contribution towards the objectives of the Smart Specialization Strategy.

Clarity of the methodology – 10 pts

The application will be assessed on the clarity of the methodology to be adopted and the identification of clear roles of the project participants.

Milestones and deliverables – 10 pts

The application will be assessed on the clarity in identifying milestones and deliverables and their realisation potential through the identification of risk mitigation measures, through the proposed project plan.

Selection Criteria (III)

Impact - 30 pts

Impact in relation to the applicant's market presence – 10 pts

The application will be evaluated in terms of the potential impact vis-à-vis the applicant's market presence, growth and internationalisation potential and closeness to the market.

Impact on employment – 10 pts

The application will be evaluated in relation to the potential impact on new employment in the applicant enterprise.

Effective integration of the Operational Programme's horizontal priorities: Environmental Sustainability, Equal Opportunities – 10 pts

The application will be assessed in relation to the effective integration of the OP's horizontal priorities being Environmental Sustainability and Equal Opportunities.

Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (I)

Quality and Efficiency of Implementation - 40 pts

Level of Management and Control Systems in place –10 pts

The evaluation will be assessing quality and efficiency of implementation, the level of Management and Control Systems in place, and the extent of quality standards adopted by the Undertaking.

Complementarity of participants – 10 pts

The application will be evaluated in terms of its ability to bring together complementary competences through the involvement of the identified participants in the project to contribute towards the successful implementation of the assisted action.

Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (II)

Level of capacity and allocation of resources towards the project – 10 pts

The evaluation will be assessing the allocation of HR, Financial and other physical resources by the applicant and project participants towards the project to ensure its successful implementation and sustainability.

Coherence of work plan – 10 pts

The evaluation will be assessing the effectiveness of the proposed work plan.

Scoring

Meets the requirement with additional assurance 81 to 100% of points: The information submitted provides strong evidence that the specified requirements can be met exceeds expectations, full confidence, and no concerns.

Meets the requirement 76 to 80% of points: The information submitted provides good evidence that the specified requirements can be met. Full and robust response, any concerns are addressed so that the proposal gives confidence.

Mostly meets the requirement with minor weaknesses in certain areas 50 to 75% of points: The application demonstrates reasonable ability, mostly meeting the requirement with minor weaknesses in certain areas. The evidence and information submitted is fairly clear and convincing with only minor reservations.

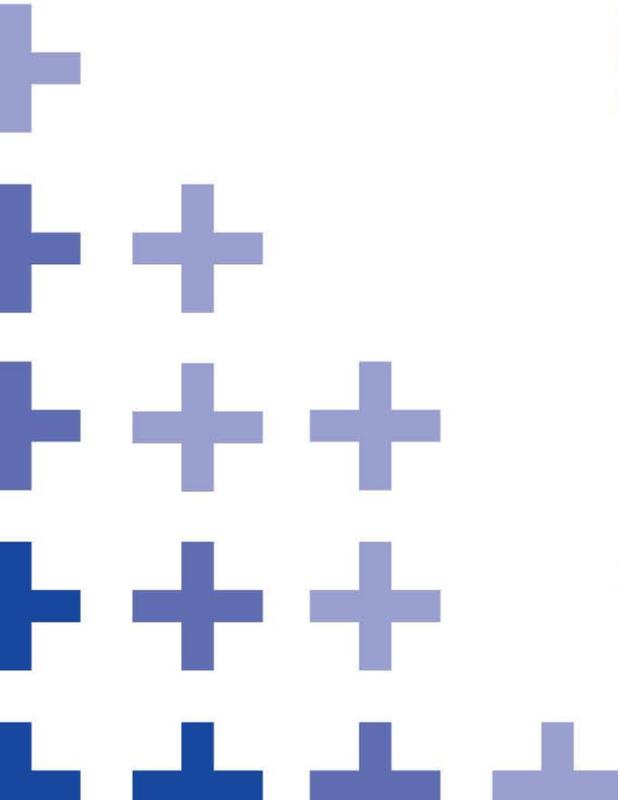
Scoring

Mostly fails the requirement with major weaknesses in certain areas 26 to 49% of points: The evidence and information provided is unclear, unconvincing and mostly fails to meet the requirement. Insufficient information is provided to give assurance that the requirement will be met.

Fails the requirement up to 25% of points: The application fails to satisfy the stated requirement.

Contact Details

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