



# PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)

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National Rules for Participation

*Public Entities and Public Research and Knowledge Dissemination Organisations  
that do not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU*

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## 1. Introduction

Xjenza Malta (referred to as the 'Managing Authority' hereafter) is receiving proposals under the PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA). This Scheme focusses on networking activities to support participation in the [Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area \(PRIMA\)](#). PRIMA is an initiative launched by 20 Euro-Mediterranean Countries, including 12 EU States (Croatia, Cyprus, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain) and 8 non-EU Countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey), to participate in an EU joint programme funding R&I projects in the field of Water Management, Farming Systems, and Agri-Food Value Chain. NET2PRIMA Scheme supports participation in all relevant initiatives under PRIMA, including the [FUTURE4PRIMA Coordination and support action \(CSA\) project](#), which aims to co-create and implement research and innovation initiatives within a renewed PRIMA partnership under the upcoming Framework Programme (FP10).

The NET2PRIMA Scheme is offering Malta-based stakeholders the financial support to attend PRIMA related workshops, networking and brokerage events held overseas and organised by the PRIMA Foundation, [PRIMA National Contact Points](#) and other relevant entities associated with PRIMA. Participation in these events is expected to yield long-term benefits, such as the formation of consortia or involvement in consortia capable of submitting proposals for PRIMA Sections 1 and 2. Additionally, this Scheme aims to enhance overall awareness of the PRIMA Initiative, exposing Malta-based researchers to success stories of ongoing or concluded PRIMA projects and encouraging knowledge transfer.

## 2. Definitions

- Applicant means anyone eligible to apply in terms of these Rules for Participation and who consequently applies for funding under this Scheme.
- Managing Authority refers to Xjenza Malta, a Managing Authority established as per Subsidiary Legislation 595.49.
- Public Entity is any Ministry, Department, Entity, Authority, Public Commission, Public Sector Foundation, or similar organisation that does not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU and that exercises public power, or else acts in its

own capacity as public authority, where the activity in question forms part of the essential function of the State or is connected with those functions by its nature, its aim and the rules to which it is subject. However, the classification of a particular entity as an undertaking depends entirely on the nature of its activities, and the overriding criterion of consideration is whether it carries out an economic activity or not, e.g. an entity that is formally part of the public administration may nevertheless have to be regarded as an undertaking within the meaning of Article 107(1) of the Treaty. Thus, an entity that carries out both economic and non-economic activities is to be regarded as an undertaking only with regards to the former. In this case, if the economic activity can be separated from the exercise of public powers, then that entity acts as an undertaking in relation to that activity and the financing, the costs and the revenues of that economic activity shall be accounted for separately from the other non-commercial activities.

If an economic activity cannot be separated from the exercise of public power, the activities exercised by that entity as a whole, remain connected with the exercise of those public powers and therefore fall outside the notion of an undertaking.

- Research and knowledge-dissemination organisation means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, may not enjoy preferential access to the results generated by it.

### 3. Eligibility Criteria

Any Public Entity / Public Research and Knowledge-dissemination Organisation registered in Malta, that does not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU may

apply and will be eligible for funding subject to the terms and conditions laid out in this document and in particular the conditions for eligibility.

Applicants who have other funded projects with the Managing Authority and are in default, and/or have gone beyond the timelines of the project, are not eligible to participate.

Any application submitted by or including the participation of any legal person or legal entity having, in totality or in majority ownership, the same shareholders, partners or persons holding and/ or exercising a controlling power in any other legal entity which will have, at any time prior to such application, been declared as non-compliant or defaulting on any other contract or agreement entered into with the Managing Authority, shall be automatically declared as inadmissible.

Funding under this Scheme is made available on the basis that the Applicant has not benefited and will not benefit from any other grant or financial incentive of whatever nature, applied for and/or utilised for the same scope as that subject of the funding requested under this Scheme.

It is important that the same Applicant benefitting from this Scheme would be directly involved in the activities of the project consortium applying for PRIMA funding. NET2PRIMA will preferably support travel happening within PRIMA Participating States<sup>1</sup>.

The main objectives of this Scheme are:

- i. Expanding the R&I network for Malta-based stakeholders within the Mediterranean region and beyond, particularly focusing on areas relevant to PRIMA.
- ii. Facilitating connections and collaborations within the PRIMA-related areas.
- iii. Encouraging knowledge transfer between successful project consortia and prospective Malta-based applicants.
- iv. Actively promote the formation of successful project consortia, through targeted support and networking opportunities. It is important that networking activities generate long-term outcomes leading to the formation of the consortium capable of applying for the PRIMA Programme.

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<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey.

The Managing Authority will support the attendance of events that do not exceed five (5) days and funding no more than five (5) nights.

The Scheme is limited to two (2) representatives per event per organisation<sup>2</sup>, however, the entity may benefit from multiple grants for different events. The same individual cannot be supported by this Scheme more than three (3) times per year.

## 4. Budgeting and Financing

Each Applicant is invited to provide a breakdown of the anticipated costs to carry out the proposed activities as part of the Application Form, including three (3) flight quotations.

Award holders will be responsible for arranging all relevant activities including travel plans, accommodation, logistics planning and insurance coverage for any participant who will be travelling.

Applicants will receive a reimbursement upon timely and complete receipt of reporting documents (Section 7).

The Applicant must confirm that there has not been any approval or has been granted any public funding, financing, or fiscal benefit in respect to the cost items included in this request for aid and will not seek funding or fiscal benefits for these cost items through other National and/or European Union measures.

All applications should be accompanied by the relevant declaration forms. Applicants should quantify any possible indirect State aid to undertakings through public research and knowledge dissemination organisations and public entities in cases of collaboration with undertakings or contract research or research services on behalf of undertakings.

### Eligible costs:

- Flights for travel related to the event (economy class tickets costing no more than €1,000 for EU countries and €2,000 for non-EU countries, preferably direct flights. The cappings must also cover travel insurance, taxes and VAT).

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<sup>2</sup> In case of Research and knowledge-dissemination organisation, the grant is limited to two representatives per event per department/institute

- Subsistence allowance (inclusive of accommodation) – when subsistence costs are calculated the local entity’s pre-approved subsistence allowances should be used. If this is not available, official [per diem rates](#) established by the Ministry for Finance should be used for guidance.

Only flights that depart from Malta and return back to Malta are eligible. Furthermore, supplementary or match funding from other funding sources is allowed and encouraged, this should be done only if it does not finance the same activities that will be funded through the NET2PRIMA Scheme (no double funding).

Any costs not expressly listed above shall be deemed ineligible for reimbursement under this Scheme.

To apply under these National Rules, the Applicant needs to adhere to the justifications found in the application form as to why the activities to be undertaken do not meet the criteria of Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (i.e., not falling under State Aid implications).

## 5. Submission of Application Form

Interested Applicants are to submit electronically their complete Application Forms to the Managing Authority at [prima.xjenzamalta@gov.mt](mailto:prima.xjenzamalta@gov.mt) with “NET2PRIMA 2025” as a subject heading by not later than twenty (20) working days before the chosen event.

The Application Forms must be dated and signed by the legal representative of the Eligible Undertaking. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

NET2PRIMA complete application forms need to include:

- The ‘PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)’ National Application Form available on the [Xjenza Malta’s website](#) and associated with this Call.
- *Curriculum Vitae* of the Applicant
- Three (3) flight quotations.
- Proof of registration by the event organiser.
- Final agenda of the event.

- Proof of planning meetings with at least three (3) different partners if attending a brokerage event (*Recommended*).

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure the timely and correct delivery of the Application Form and relevant documentation to the Managing Authority.

It should be noted that emails larger than 20MB will be automatically rejected by the mail system. The Applicant may make use of cloud storage.

## 6. Selection Process

The NET2PRIMA Scheme will remain open throughout 2025 and until the Call funds are exhausted. The Managing Authority, upon its discretion reserves the right to close the Call.

The selection of the awardees will be based on an administrative check of the application, which is based on section "3. Eligibility Criteria" and section "5. Submission of application form". The Managing Authority will notify the applicant if their application was successful or not within ten (10) working days.

The Awarded activities may be completed up to six (6) months after being notified that the application has passed all eligibility checks. Reimbursement will be made following the presentation of the reporting documents (Section 7).

## 7. Award Duration and Deviations

Upon completion of the activities, the Applicant is to submit a final travel report within thirty (30) days after the finalisation of the activities and according to a standard template developed by the Managing Authority. The final report will need to be accompanied by all relevant reporting documents:

1. Boarding Passes
2. Air ticket and travel insurance (including their receipts)

Failure to provide the requested documents in time allows the Managing Authority to withhold any reimbursements. The Managing Authority retains the right to request further proof of expenditure. Failure to do so allows the Managing Authority to withhold any reimbursements.



Request for extension will be considered solely in cases where the chosen event is postponed to a later date. Such request must be submitted in writing to [prima.xjenzamalta@gov.mt](mailto:prima.xjenzamalta@gov.mt) with the subject heading "NET2PRIMA 2025 – Modification".

Request for a change in the use of the Scheme must likewise be submitted in writing to [prima.xjenzamalta@gov.mt](mailto:prima.xjenzamalta@gov.mt), also with the subject heading "NET2PRIMA 2025 - Modification". Approval from the Managing Authority is required prior to implementing any changes. The Managing Authority will review the request and provide a response within ten (10) working days. Only one modification request is permitted per application.

## 8. Referencing and Acknowledge

Successful Applicants will be required to inform the Managing Authority of any direct or indirect outputs resulting from this Scheme during and beyond the lifetime of the Scheme.

Reference to this Scheme should be made on any publication, marketing or PR material that is generated in relation to the relevant project or activity undertaken.

## 9. Interpretation of the Rules

This document endeavours to establish comprehensive and unambiguous rules governing participation in this initiative. However, should circumstances arise where the rules are inadequate, unclear, ambiguous, or conflicting, the Managing Authority shall exercise its discretion in the interpretation of the rules through the setting up of an *ad hoc* committee.

## 10. Confidentiality of Submissions

All application submissions shall be treated in the strictest confidence.

The collection of data by Xjenza Malta through the application for aid under the Programme, submitted by the Applicant and the subsequent processing of said data by Xjenza Malta to evaluate the data subject's request for aid under the Programme and the storage of said data shall at all times be in accordance with:

- i. The provisions of these National Rules for Participation; and
- ii. Data Protection Act, Chapter 586 of the Laws of Malta and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of

natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

- iii. The legitimate basis to process personal data submitted by the data subject by virtue of his/her written application for aid is Regulation 6 (1)(b) of the General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR"), as 'processing is necessary in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract'.

## 11. Further Information

For further information on the PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA), kindly contact Dr Annalisa Cartabia as per details below:

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