



PRIMA Networking Support Scheme (NET2PRIMA)

National Rules for Participation

These Rules for Participation are applicable to undertakings that carry out an economic activity within the meaning of [Article 107 TFEU](#).

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Definitions	3
3. Eligibility Criteria.....	6
4. Budgeting and Financing	7
Eligible costs:	8
5. Submission of Application Form	9
6. Selection Process.....	9
7. Award Duration and Deviations.....	10
8. Referencing and Acknowledge	10
9. State aid Rules.....	11
10. Interpretation of the Rules.....	12
11. Confidentiality of Submissions.....	13
12. Further Information.....	13

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.
- Eligible undertakings are defined as undertakings that are eligible to apply for assistance under this Scheme. In order to be eligible, applicants must additionally satisfy the following criteria. They must be either:

- i. A partnership constituted under the Companies Act, being a partnership *en nom collectif*, *en commandite*, or a limited liability company; or
- ii. A duly registered co-operative society under the Co-Operative Societies Act; or
- iii. Professional body; or
- iv. NGOs; or
- v. Non-profit making entities (including Foundations).

'Professional Body' may be an organisation, an association, a chamber, society, institute, or a group of professional persons not being enrolled or registered in terms of The Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta) or not being otherwise recognised in terms of Law, and which is generally recognised and acknowledged by the professional persons it seeks to represent as their representative body. For the purposes of this Definition, a professional person is one who has undergone a period of study at a university or a recognised institution of higher learning and has obtained the formal qualification entitling the person to practise the respective profession; and who provides a specialised service to the public, based primarily on a fiduciary relationship between herself/himself and the party to whom s/he provides such service on his own personal credibility and responsibility.

'NGO' means any Voluntary or Non-Governmental Organisation set up in accordance with The Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta). Provided that a duly registered NGO, or a duly registered Professional Body shall also be considered to be NGOs for the purposes of these Rules of Participation.

'Non-profit making' is an entity where:

- i. The statute of which includes an express exclusion making profits as a purpose; and
- ii. An entity the statute of which expressly excludes in its purposes the promotion of private interests, other than a private interest which has a social purpose; and
- iii. An entity that makes no part of its income, capital or property available directly or indirectly to any promoter, founder, member, administrator, donor or any other private interest.

Provided that if a promoter, founder, member, administrator or donor is another enrolled non-profit making organisation, the limitation in this paragraph (iii) shall not apply where the availability of such income, capital or property is subject to conditions which are consistent with the general purposes of the grantor entity:

Provided further that an organisation shall continue to be deemed as non-profit making notwithstanding that:

- i. It obtains a pecuniary gain from its activities when such gain is not received or credited to its members but is exclusively utilised for its established purposes;
 - ii. It buys or sells or otherwise deals in goods or services where such activities are exclusively related to its principal purposes;
 - iii. It is established for the general entertainment, pastime, education or other similar benefit only of its members; or
 - iv. It is established for the promotion of the social role, ethics, education and values of a trade or profession provided it does not promote the private interests of its members.
- Managing Authority refers to Xjenza Malta, a Managing Authority established as per Subsidiary Legislation 595.49.
 - Operating base in Malta means if the legal entity:
 - a) owns, leases, or has been given the right of use by a third party, an adequate premise from where to conduct an eligible economic activity in the region of Malta; and
 - b) employs at least one person that is based in Malta and is liable to pay income tax in Malta.
 - Single Undertaking includes all enterprises having at least one of the following relationships with each other:
 - i. One enterprise has a majority of the shareholders' or members' voting rights in another enterprise;
 - ii. One enterprise has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of another enterprise;
 - iii. One enterprise has the right to exercise a dominant influence on another enterprise pursuant to a contract entered into with that enterprise or to a provision in its memorandum or articles of association;

- iv. One enterprise, which is a shareholder in or member of another enterprise, controls alone, pursuant to an agreement with other shareholders in or members of that enterprise, a majority of shareholders' or members' voting rights in that enterprise.

Enterprises having any of the relationships referred to in points (i) to (iv) above through one or more other enterprises shall be considered to be a single undertaking.

- Undertaking covers any entity engaged in an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU, regardless of its legal status and the way in which it is financed.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Any Eligible Undertaking that carries out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU, with an operating base in Malta, as defined in Section 2, may apply and will be eligible for funding subject to the terms and conditions laid out in this document.

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 States¹.

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

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.

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 organisation², 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

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

for aid and will not seek funding or fiscal benefits for these cost items through other National and/or European Union measures.

Participants will be funded if the amount they request falls within the allowable quota for aid under the *de minimis* Regulation. Article 3(2) of the *de minimis* Regulation stipulates that a single undertaking cannot receive more than €300,000 in *de minimis* aid over 3 years, including *de minimis* aid from schemes offered by entities other than the Managing Authority. Applicants will be required to submit a signed *de minimis* declaration form indicating any *de minimis* aid received and/or applied for during the applicable three-year period.

No support may be provided to undertakings engaged in activities specifically excluded under the *de minimis* Regulation (vide Section 9).

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).
- 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.

5. Submission of Application Form

Interested Applicants are to submit electronically their complete Application Forms to the Managing Authority at 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*).
- *De minimis* declaration form.

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 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, 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. State aid Rules

Assistance provided under these National Rules for Participation is in line with the terms and conditions of Commission Regulation EU 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid (OJ L, 2023/2831, 15.12.2023) (herein referred to as *de minimis* Regulation (link below)). The *de minimis* Regulation stipulates that a Single Undertaking cannot receive more than €300,000 in *de minimis* aid over 3 years, including *de minimis* aid from schemes offered by entities other than the Managing Authority. The three-year period is assessed on a rolling basis. Any *de minimis* aid received which is above the established threshold will have to be recovered, with interest from the undertaking receiving the aid.

The *de minimis* Regulation applies to aid granted to undertakings in all sectors, with the exception of:

- i. Aid granted to undertakings active in the primary production of fishery and aquaculture products.
- ii. Aid granted to undertakings active in the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, where the amount of the aid is fixed on the basis of price or quantity of products purchased or put on the market.
- iii. Aid granted to undertakings active in the primary production of agricultural products.
- iv. Aid granted to undertakings active in the processing and marketing of agricultural products, in one of the following cases:
 - a. Where the amount of the aid is fixed on the basis of the price or quantity of such products purchased from primary producers or put on the market by the undertakings concerned.
 - b. Where the aid is conditional on being partly or entirely passed on to primary producers.
- v. Aid granted to export-related activities towards third countries or Member States, namely aid directly linked to the quantities exported, the establishment and operation of a distribution network or other current expenditure linked to the export activity.
- vi. Aid contingent upon the use of domestic goods and services over imported goods and services.

Where an undertaking is active in the sectors referred to in points (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) above, and is also active in one or more of the other sectors falling within the scope of the *de minimis* Regulation or has other activities falling within the scope of the *de minimis* Regulation, the *de minimis* Regulation shall apply to aid granted in respect of the latter sectors or activities, provided that the Managing Authority ensures, by relying on appropriate means such as separation of activities or separation of accounts, that the activities in the sectors excluded from the scope of this Regulation do not benefit from the *de minimis* aid granted in accordance with this scheme.

The rules on cumulation of aid as outlined in Article 5 of the *de minimis* Regulation (link below) will be respected.

In line with Article 6(1) of the *de minimis* Regulation, as of 1 January 2026, information on *de minimis* aid granted under this scheme shall be made publicly available in the central register at national or Union Level.

The following information shall be made public:

- i. The identification of the Beneficiary,
- ii. The aid amount,
- iii. The granting date,
- iv. The aid instrument, and
- v. The sector involved based on the statistical classification of economic activities in the Union ('NACE classification').

More information on the *de minimis* Regulation can be found on the following link:

<https://eur.lex.europa.eu/elj/reg/2023/2831>

10. 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.

11. 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. COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid (the *de minimis* Regulation);
- iii. 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).
- iv. 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'.

12. Further Information

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

Internationalisation Unit

Xjenza Malta

Tel: +356 2360 2175

General Email: prima.xjenzamalta@gov.mt

Email: annalisa.cartabia@gov.mt