EXPLORING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPIRE PROGRAMME & THE 2025 XJENZA MALTA — CNR JOINT CALL

THE SESSION WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM MARCH 27 | 10:00 AM- 11:00 AM















Information Session An Introduction to the SPIRE Programme & the 2025 Xjenza Malta CNR Joint Call

27th March 2025

Housekeeping Notes for the Session

• There will be a dedicated Q&A time where you can ask questions at the end of the session. Please hold your questions until that time.

 Please remain muted unless you need to speak. This minimises background noises.

Xjenza Malta

The Malta Government Agency acting as the national R&D and Space agency, and the policy development and implementation body in the area of Research, Innovation and Space



Internationalisation Unit

Programmes

Bilaterals and
Multilaterals Funding
Programmes,
Support Schemes,
and Other Funding
Opportunities

Policy & Strategy

International STI
Policy Fora and
Science Diplomacy

Other Initiatives & Projects

Provide opportunities for capacity building and networking

Internationalisation Unit

Bilateral Programmes







Multilateral Programmes













Other Initiatives





Internationalisation Unit

Bilateral Programmes







Multilateral Programmes













Other Initiatives





An Introduction to Spire SEED GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL FUNDING

SPIRE enhances Malta's international research collaboration by facilitating Joint Calls with global counterparts. It fosters knowledge exchange, access to advanced research infrastructure, and cross-border partnerships. Through multi-annual Calls, SPIRE supports small-scale projects that pave the way for future-oriented, high-impact research.

Key Objectives of SPIRE

- 1. Foster Research Partnerships: Foster new and existing research partnerships between Maltese researchers and international experts, expanding Malta's research capacity.
- 2. Enable Innovative Research Development: Provide the necessary support for initial research activities, such as collecting preliminary data, formulating research questions and testing early-stage hypotheses, further developing established ideas, to strengthen the foundation for future large-scale research.

Key Objectives of SPIRE

- 3. Facilitate Exchange of Expertise: Support the mobility of research personnel from Malta-based entities and foreign entities, fostering the transfer of specialised knowledge, advanced methodologies, and innovative techniques to enhance collaborative research outcomes.
- 4. Support Multiple Calls for Funding: SPIRE operates through multiple calls for funding, fostering a wide spectrum of collaborative projects.

National Rules for



Eligible Entities

Eligible Entities must be registered in Malta or must have an operating base in Malta

Limited Liability Company

Partnerships

Non-profit making Organisations

Voluntary Organisations

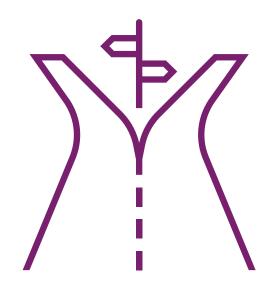
Professional Bodies

Cooperatives

Public entities

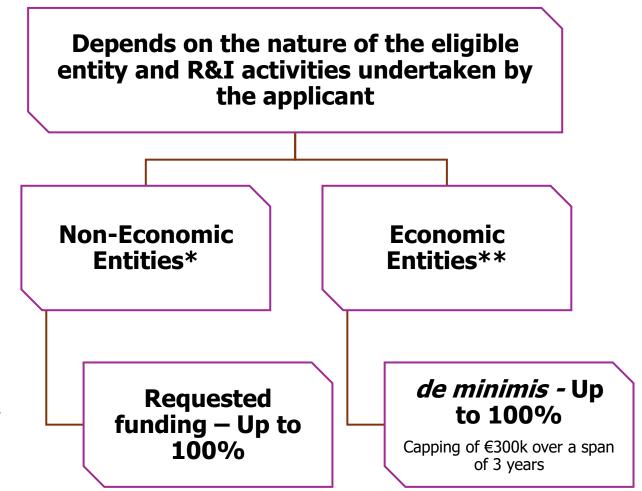
Research & Knowledge-Dissemination Organisations

Funding Modalities



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

** Undertakings that carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU.



Proposal Eligibility

The details outlined in the following sections are subject to the specific requirements and conditions of the relevant Call Text.

Section	Key Points		
Types of Project	Fundamental, Industrial Research, Experimental Development (TRL 1-7).		
Alignment to Scope	Proposal must align with Programme scope and Call Text objectives.		
Eligibility of Consortium	Generally, at least one Malta-based legal entity and one foreign partner.		
Budget and Grant Value	Budget depends on the Call.		
Project Duration	Duration varies by Call.		
Project Contact Point(s)	At least one Project Contact Point is required.		

Deliverables

Deliverables are tangible project outcomes that must be submitted within the project's timeframe. Evidence for each deliverable must be provided.

A shared file storage (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox) should be set up and structured according to the project deliverables to facilitate monitoring.

Note: Project setup activities (e.g., recruitment, internal meetings) are not considered deliverables.
Deliverables will be assessed based on the final submission only.

Category	Deliverable	Details
Mandatory	Publication	At least one article (newspaper, online, magazine) acknowledging the Managing Authority. Must be submitted within two weeks of publication.
	Tangible Outcome	A tangible outcome or follow-up initiative that builds on the achievements of the proposed research. This could include further collaborative research and identified opportunities for funding, collaboration, commercialisation, or any other initiative that capitalises on the project's results and opens avenues for future impact or funding.
	Project Reporting	Reports & meetings as per Section 7.2 of the National Rules.
	Post-Project Questionnaire	Assessment of the project's impact, contributions to research, and societal benefits.
	Other Deliverables	As required by the Call Text.
Recommended	Additional Dissemination	Extra outreach activities to raise awareness.
	Open Access Publication	Consider Xjenza Malta Open Access Journal Support for publishing research.

Budgeting and Financing

Eligible Costs



Applicants can request funding up to the limit defined in the Call Text, with 70% provided as a cash advance and the remaining 30% reimbursed upon successful completion.

Personnel and Research Consumables

The overall joint value of personnel and consumables cannot exceed 30% of project value

Travel and Subsistence

This includes, flights for travel related to the project, travel insurance, and subsistence allowance

Overheads and Other Operating Expenses

These will be covered at 20% of direct eligible costs claimed.

Budgeting and Financing

Ineligible Costs



Additional Provisions:

- Any expenses incurred during the project must be consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- Commercial transactions between any Applicants or consortium partners, or between any Applicants or a consortium partner and a company with similar shareholding to a consortium partner, is not allowed.

Expenses which are recoverable through other funding mechanisms, including recoverable value added tax.

Equipment

Personnel hours for travelling and/or overtime

Expenses related to loans, and interests

Selection Process and Evaluation

- Eligibility Check: Malta-based applicants are assessed by the Managing Authority.
- Scientific Evaluation: Conducted by external evaluators and partner funding agencies per the Call Text.
- Evaluation Criteria: May vary, based on specific objectives.
- Budget Errors:
 - o Minor Deviations (<10%): Corrected by Xjenza Malta, with beneficiary approval.
 - o Major Deviations (≥10%): Application deemed non-compliant and rejected.

Reporting

- End of Project Reports
 - o Technical Report: Submitted on the last day of the project.
 - o Financial Report: Due within 4 weeks after project completion, with invoices/receipts covering the project duration.
- Funding & Compliance
 - o Retention Money is released only after report approval.
 - o Reimbursement: Unspent funds may need to be repaid.
 - o Non-compliance or major deviations may lead to fund recovery and exclusion from future calls.
- Progress Monitoring
 - o Midpoint Meeting: Required update with Xjenza Malta.
 - o Additional Checks: The Managing Authority may request extra documentation or meetings at any time.



a.mt/open-funding-schemes/

About Us

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Plumtri

Villa Bighi

Esplora

Contact Us



Open Funding Schemes Closed Funding Schemes

Creating the best possible environment for R&I to flourish.

Xjenza Malta

Get in Touch

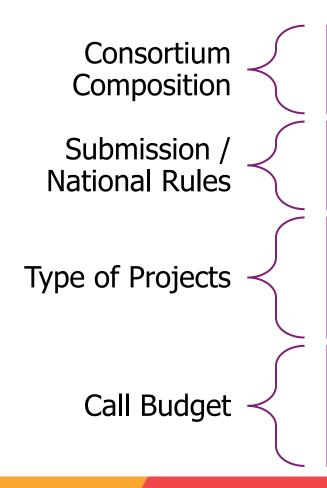
Discover more

Budget Transfers

- Transfers less than 20% ✓
 - o Allowed between line items if within Call Text & Rules.
 - o Funds must be used exclusively for the project.
- Transfers more than 20% X
 - o Not eligible as they alter the proposal.
- Reporting
 - o All line item transfers must be documented in the financial report.
 - o For Maltese consortia, the 20% rule applies per partner

Xjenza Malta – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) 2025 Joint Call for Research Proposals

Call Details



- At least one Malta-based entity
- At least one CNR researcher
- Malta-based entities Xjenza Malta
- CNR researchers— CNR
- Fundamental Research, Industrial Research, and Experimental Development
- TRL 1-7
- The National Budget for this Call is of €30,000.
- Maximum requested budget, for Malta-based partners in a consortium, is €6,000.

Call Details

Research Areas

- Marine and Maritime
- Digital Technologies
- Health
- Sustainable Use of Resources
- Smart Manufacturing
- Aerospace, Aviation, and Space
- Cultural Heritage

Call Details

Submission Deadline for Malta-based entities

• 29th May 2025 12:00 PM CET

Project Duration

• 24 months (1st January 2026 – 31st December 2027)

Scientific Evaluation

- Project Quality
- Quality of the Research Group
- Appropriateness and Justification of the Work Plan
- Added Value and Broader Impact of International Bilateral Cooperation

Additional Notes

- The projects will be implemented through the exchange of researchers and knowledge.
- In the case of any exchange of researchers to be made within the scope of the projects, the sending party meets all the travel expenses. The visitor should have insurance entitling the holder to free emergency medical treatment in the host country. The receiving Party will provide the visitor with all indispensable organisational assistance in situations requiring such steps.
- CNR researchers can only travel to Malta, within the scope of the project. They cannot travel to third countries
 as part of the project activities. Furthermore, each visit should be for a minimum of three days to ensure
 sufficient time for meaningful collaboration and exchange.

Additional Notes

- Malta-based applicants are eligible to submit more than one proposal under this Call; however, CNR researchers may only submit one proposal. Therefore, if a Malta-based applicant wishes to submit multiple proposals, they must collaborate with different CNR researchers for each submission.
- Participation of entities from third countries is not allowed. Malta-based entities are only eligible to collaborate with CNR researchers for this call.
- The intent of this Call is to award up to five high-ranking projects.

Submission Documents



SPIRE: Seed Grants for International Research Programme 2025

National Application Form for Xjenza Malta – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) 2025 Joint Call for Research Proposals

Application Form

Documents for De Minimis Applicants

- Download the Annex De-minimis Declaration
- Download the Detailed Budget Breakdown Form

Document for Non-state Aid Applicants

- Download the Annex (Public Entities not RKDO)
- Download the Annex (Public Entities RKDO)
- Download the Detailed Budget Breakdown Form

Annexes



Curricula Vitae of the Principal Investigator and other key researchers

Submission Documents - Annexes

Type of Entity	Public entities	Public RKDOs	de minimis
Private Entity			X
Public Entity (not RKDO)	X		
Public RKDOs		X	

Submission Process

Eligibility Check

The proposals will be scientifically evaluated independently by Xjenza Malta and CNR will jointly decide on the final projects that will be up for award

CNR

The proposals will be scientifically evaluated CNR will jointly decide on the final projects that will be up for award

Additional Information

Additional Information to Assist in Finding a CNR Partner

- CNR Institute Information: You can find all the details about the CNR Institutes through this link: https://www.cnr.it/it/istituti
- Additional Resources: By searching online for the website of a specific CNR institute, you will be able to
 access its organisational chart and a list of all researchers, along with their areas of expertise. This may be
 useful as you look for a potential partner.

Additional Information to Assist in Finding a CNR Partner

You can also use Plumtri (https://www.plumtri.org/), a platform designed to help researchers find collaborators. In order to access the tools on Plumtri, you will need to create a profile on the platform. Once your profile is set up, you can take advantage of the following features:

1. Partner Search Tool

Opload your collaboration request here: Plumtri Partner Search

When asked for the Scheme / Call Title, please enter:

SPIRE: Xjenza Malta-CNR 2025 Joint Call

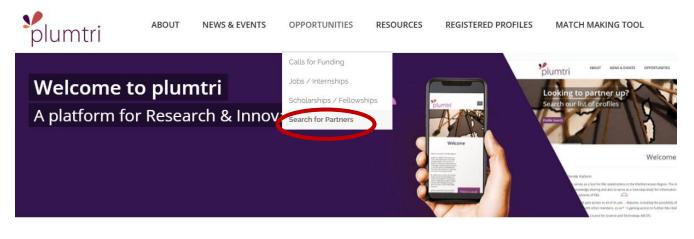
2. Matchmaking Tool

Register your interest and connect with other researchers here: Plumtri Matchmaking

Browse profiles of interested members and initiate contact with potential partners.

Once you've created your profile, you'll be able to fully engage with these tools and begin connecting with potential collaborators.

Partner Search Tool



Search for Partners

Find partners for your project ideas.

The Search for Partners tool allows plumtri users to search for partners to embark on collaborative research opportunities. It also provides users the option of uploading their own partner search requests.



Matchmaking Tool



BOUT

NEWS & EVENTS

OPPORTUNITIES

RESOURCES REGISTERED PROFILES



SPIRE:Xjenza Malta-CNR 2025 Joint Call

29/05/2025

Thematic Areas

Proposals must align with at least one of the following foucs areas:

- Marine and Maritime
- Digital Technologies
- Health
- · Sustainable Use of Resources
- Smart Manufactuing
- Aerospace, Aviation and Space
- Cultural Heritage

Application Deadline: 29 May 2025, 12:00pm CET

For this call, each consortium must include at least one eligible Malta-based entity and one CNR researcher.

Interested Members

Register Interest

Any Questions?





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