

Call Text - XJENZA MALTA-TÜBİTAK 2025 Joint Call for Project Proposals

1. Introduction

In 2020, Xjenza Malta and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) (*referred to as the Managing Authorities*), signed a collaborative agreement to bilaterally support cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation between Malta and Türkiye. After the successful cooperation between the two Managing Authorities in launching four Joint Calls for Bilateral Project Proposals between 2021 and 2024, this year the Managing Authorities will be launching a 5th Joint Call, in accordance with the framework of this said collaborative agreement.

2. Aim and Scope

The **5th Joint Call** aims to assist researchers and innovators from both countries in strengthening their scientific expertise and networks, fostering collaboration for future funding opportunities, including the annual PRIMA Section 1 and Section 2 Calls. This Call will focus on two distinct pillars:

- **Pillar 1:** Dedicated to PRIMA Thematic Areas, addressing the PRIMA Programme's priorities.
- **Pillar 2:** Focused on Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Thematic Areas, which extend beyond the PRIMA fields to include broader topics of mutual interest.

The Call will have two separate ranking lists, one for the PRIMA Thematic Areas and one for the RDI Thematic Areas. The intent is to fund high ranking projects from each pillar.

The overarching goal of this initiative is to enhance the research and innovation capacities of both countries across the following two distinct pillars. Sub-topics listed should be considered as a non-comprehensive list of fields that can be addressed in project proposals:

- **Pillar 1: PRIMA Thematic Areas:**
Thematic areas aligned with the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) will form the basis of Pillar 1.
These areas include:
 - 1. Management of Water**
 - 2. Farming Systems**
 - 3. Agro-Food Value Chain**

- **Pillar 2: Shared National Priority areas:**

1. **Smart Manufacturing**

Guiding subtopics – Sustainable Manufacturing and Flexible automation.

2. **Health**

Guiding subtopics – Health technologies, biotechnological drugs/Pharmaceuticals, advanced materials in health, epidemiology.

3. **Aviation**

Guiding subtopics– aviation technologies focusing on safety, sustainability, and operational efficiency. The project **must have a civilian purpose** (Military purpose projects will not be funded).

- **Cross-Cutting Theme: Digital Technologies**

Digital Technologies is a cross-cutting theme, relevant across both pillars.

PRIMA Programme Thematic Fields will encompass environmental dimensions, including climate change, biodiversity, and water treatment technologies, aligning closely with the objectives outlined in the [PRIMA Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#).

Within the scope of this Joint Call, two types of joint projects will be supported: 1. R&D and 2. R&D&I Projects. The Call operates through a one-stage submission process. One joint application form is available, and each Managing Authority will need to receive a copy of the submitted application by the designated deadline. Each Managing Authority has its own National Rules & Regulations. Thus, apart from adhering to the said requirements in this Call Text, applicants will also need to ensure that they abide by their own respective National Rules & Regulations.

The Rules and Regulations for the Maltese participants can be found in the FUNDING section of the Xjenza Malta website: [Open Funding Schemes – Xjenza Malta](#)

TÜBİTAK will fund the Turkish side under the financial principles of TÜBİTAK 1071 Program:

- For R&D Projects:
https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf
- For R&D&I Projects:
https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_ar-ge_ve_yenilik_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf

3. Eligibility Conditions

Each project proposal shall need to be in accordance with the following requirements. However, apart from adhering to below eligibility requirements in this Call Text, applicants will also need to ensure that they abide by their own respective National Rules & Regulations:

- Each proposal for a joint research project must be submitted by researchers/innovators from at least one eligible legal entity based in Türkiye and at least one eligible legal entity based in Malta. These will be considered and referred to as 'project partners' for the duration of the project.
- The Turkish and Maltese partners shall form a project consortium and prepare a joint scientific project.
- Unilateral project applications are not accepted. Applications which are not received by both Managing Authorities will not be accepted for evaluation. Hence, Turkish/Maltese project leaders should make sure that their counterpart submits a matching application.
- Proposals must directly address the aim of the Call and needs to clearly align with at **least one of the thematic fields within one of the two pillars of this Call.**
- The projects will be implemented through the exchange of researchers and knowledge.
- Each collaborating side must have **one Principal Investigator (PI)**¹, representing the proposal consortium for each country.
- The PI of each country shall be responsible to submit the application form to his/her own Managing Authority.
- Based on the respective bilateral agreement between TÜBİTAK and Xjenza Malta, each party will cover the costs of their own national team.
- While submitting the project proposal form, the costs which are requested in the scope of the project must be stated in detail and justified. The eligible and ineligible costs are also detailed in the National Rules & Regulations of each side. 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.
- Each National Applicant shall need to consult with the **National Rules & Regulations** imposed by the corresponding Managing Authority. Applications which are found to be ineligible by one of the Managing Authorities will automatically render the whole proposal as ineligible.
- Only proposals that have a signed **cooperation and IP agreement** amongst the consortium partners will be eligible to apply.

¹ Principal Investigator (PI) refers to the Lead Researcher within the applying eligible entity.

- Proposals should strive to be **balanced** between the two countries with respect to the **volume of work and activities** and also in terms of **funding**.
- Applicants are eligible to submit **more than one proposal** under the Call. However, for proposals that have the same PI, and in the event that both are chosen for funding, only one of the projects will proceed to be funded.
- Proposals need to be written in **English**.

4. Call Snapshot

Scope	<p>Under the 2025 Joint Call for Proposals of TÜBİTAK-Xjenza Malta Bilateral R&I Projects, the following will be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D Projects • R&D&I Projects
Pillars & Thematic Fields & subfields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pillar 1: PRIMA Thematic Areas Thematic areas aligned with the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) will form the basis of Pillar 1. These areas include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management of Water 2. Farming Systems 3. Agro-food Value Chain • Pillar 2: Shared National Priority areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smart Manufacturing Guiding subtopics - Sustainable Manufacturing and Flexible automation 2. Health Guiding subtopics - Health technologies, biotechnological drugs/Pharmaceuticals, advanced materials in health, epidemiology. 3. Aviation Guiding subtopics- aviation technologies focusing on safety, sustainability, and operational efficiency. ** The project must have a civilian purpose (Military purpose projects will not be funded). • Cross-Cutting Theme: Digital Technologies Digital Technologies is a cross-cutting theme, relevant across both pillars.
Launch of the Call	4 th April 2025

Final date for online proposal submission	For TÜBİTAK: 20 th June 2025, 23:59.	Xjenza Malta: 20 th June 2025, 23:59
Final date for electronic signatures' completion	For TÜBİTAK: 27 th June 2025, 23:59.	For Xjenza Malta: N/A
Eligibility check	For TÜBİTAK: June–July 2025	For Xjenza Malta: June–July 2025
Scientific Evaluation	October 2025	
Issuing of results	November 2025	
Project Duration	24 months	
Eligible applicant	For TÜBİTAK: Detailed information about eligibility rules can be found at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For R&D Projects: https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf For R&D&I Projects: https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_ar-ge_ve_yenilik_projele_ri_surec_dokumani.p df 	For Xjenza Malta: Detailed information about the eligibility rules can be found at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Funding Schemes – Xjenza Malta
Evaluation Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific/Technological Excellence ○ Methodology ○ Project Management ○ Importance of International Collaboration ○ Impact 	
Award parameters	For TÜBİTAK: Funds up to 3,000,000 TL (excluding overhead and	For Xjenza Malta: Up to €100,000 per project for high-ranking proposals.

	Project Incentive Premium – PIP) per project.	
Daily Allowance	For TÜBİTAK: It will be provided within the scope of the provisions of per diem Law numbered 6245.	For Xjenza Malta: As per National Rules and Regulations of the Call
Duration of Travel	For each project, the total duration of scientific visits from one side to another (from Malta to Türkiye or from Türkiye to Malta) will not exceed 60 days/year.	
Coverage of Expenses	The funding agency is obliged to cover all expenses (including health insurance) for travel and accommodation of its own researchers in accordance with its own rules. No money crossing borders.	
How to apply	For TÜBİTAK: Proposal submission is made through the TÜBİTAK's online submission system: http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr	For Xjenza Malta: The application forms can be downloaded from: Open Funding Schemes – Xjenza Malta A complete national administrative form along with relevant annexes should be received by the submission deadline at: prima.xjenzamalta@gov.mt
Program Contact	TÜBİTAK Dr. Ayda KARA PEKTAS Scientific Programmes Chief Expert International Cooperation Department Bilateral and Multilateral Relations Division TÜBİTAK Tunus Cad. No:80 Kavaklıdere Cankaya ANKARA TÜRKİYE T +90 312 298 1729	Xjenza Malta Nathan Aquilina Program Coordinator Internationalisation Unit Villa Bighi, Dawret Fra Giovanni Bichi, Kalkara, KKR 1320 +356 23602183 prima.xjenzamalta@gov.mt

	www.tubitak.gov.tr ayda.pektas@tubitak.gov.tr uidb@tubitak.gov.tr TÜBİTAK Dr. Kamil Öncü ŞEN Scientific Programs Chief Expert International Cooperation Projects Research Grant Committee (UPAG) TÜBİTAK (Ek Hizmet Binası) İşçi Blokları Mahallesi Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu Cad. No: 51/C 06520 Çankaya, ANKARA TÜRKİYE T +90 312 298 1809 www.tubitak.gov.tr oncu.sen@tubitak.gov.tr	Xjenza Malta Francesca Grillo Call Manager Internationalisation Unit Villa Bighi, Dawret Fra Giovanni Bichi, Kalkara, KKR1320 +356 23602232 prima.xjenzamalta@gov.mt
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5. Eligibility Check

Each proposal received within the designated submission deadline shall pass through an administrative/eligibility check by both Managing Authorities. The administration/eligibility check procedure is defined in the respective National Rules & Regulations set forth by each Managing Authority. Applicants shall need to satisfy the criteria set forth by both Managing Authorities to be eligible to move forward to the scientific evaluation stage.

6. Scientific Evaluation

The proposals that are found administratively eligible will be scientifically evaluated by **three** Turkish- and **three** Maltese-nominated external reviewers. Following the scientific evaluation by external reviewers, TÜBİTAK and Xjenza Malta will exchange the Project Proposal Evaluation Forms for perusal. The Managing Authorities will make their decisions by considering the evaluations of the external reviewers from both countries. TÜBİTAK and Xjenza Malta will select the project proposals to be funded

during a joint committee meeting. Only the project proposals which are approved by both TÜBİTAK and Xjenza Malta will be supported within available budget.

7. Post-award

For successful projects, the beneficiary from each country will sign a Grant Agreement directly with the respective Managing Authority. The National Rules & Regulations will form an integral part of each respective Grant Agreement, which will further define the terms and conditions, including the funding disbursement schedule for both parties. Projects must start and end on the same date for all partners within the project consortium and should ideally start within 3 months from the date of publishing of the Call results.

Other requirements that are specifically required by each of the Managing Authorities shall need to be adhered to by the said counterparts.

2025 Joint Call for Proposals of Xjenza Malta-TÜBİTAK Bilateral R&D&I Projects is part of the PRIMA Programme supported by the European Union.

