

Xjenza Malta-TÜBİTAK 2026 Joint Call for R&I Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

These FAQs are intended to provide general guidance to applicants and are based on the applicable Call Text and the National Rules for Participation (State Aid and Non-State Aid) issued by Xjenza Malta in relation to Malta-based entities.

The FAQs do not constitute a legally binding document and are provided for explanatory purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy, inconsistency, omission, or misalignment between the information contained in these FAQs and the official Call Text, the National Rules for Participation, or any other official documentation issued by Xjenza Malta, the provisions of the official documents shall prevail and take precedence.

Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring full compliance with the most recent version of the applicable Call Text and National Rules prior to submission.

These FAQs specifically address matters relating to Malta-based entities and the national rules administered by Xjenza Malta. Any matters relating to Türkiye-based entities, eligibility, funding conditions, or national procedures must be consulted directly in the relevant documentation issued by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK).

Eligibility & Participation

1. Who is eligible to apply under this Call?

Eligibility depends on whether the applicant carries out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU. Public entities and Research and Knowledge Dissemination Organisations (RKDOs) that do not carry out economic activities are eligible under the National Rules – Non-State Aid (Section 2.1: Eligibility of Entity).

Undertakings carrying out economic activities are eligible under the National Rules – State Aid (Section 2.1: Eligibility of Entity; Section 1.1: Definitions – Eligible Undertakings). These sections further define the specific entity types eligible under this Call. All applicants must also comply with the Call Text eligibility requirements.

2. Are SMEs, large enterprises, and start-ups eligible?

Yes. There is no exclusion based on size. However, funding intensity varies depending on whether the applicant qualifies as an SME or a Large Undertaking, as defined in the

State Aid Rules (Section 1.1: Definitions). Aid intensity under De Minimis is outlined in Section 4.2, and under GBER in Section 4.3 of the State Aid Rules. The documentation and eligibility requirements vary depending on these circumstances.

3. Must applicants have an operating base in Malta?

Yes. Applicants must qualify as a legal entity operating in Malta in accordance with the State Aid Rules (Section 1.1: Definitions – Legal Entity and Operating Base in Malta) or meet the eligibility conditions under the Non-State Aid Rules.

4. What are the minimum consortium requirements?

Each proposal must include at least one Malta-based legal entity and one Türkiye-based legal entity. This requirement is specified in the National Rules for Participation and the Call Text.

5. Can additional partners from other countries participate?

Yes. Partners from countries other than Malta and Türkiye may participate, however, their participation will **not be** funded by Xjenza Malta or TÜBİTAK.

6. Is an industry partner mandatory?

No. There is no obligation to include an industry partner for this call. The only mandatory requirement is compliance with the minimum consortium composition set out in the Call Text and the relevant National Rules of Participation. Applicants must make sure to include partners that are relevant for their research objectives and tasks. The entity type, expertise and resources should align with the research proposal.

7. Can an organisation submit more than one proposal?

Yes. There is no restriction on submitting or participating in multiple proposals, provided that each application independently satisfies the eligibility and funding requirements.

Application & Submission

8. Do Maltese and Türkiye-based partners submit separate applications?

Malta-based applicants must submit the national administrative form and relevant annexes to Xjenza Malta, while Türkiye-based applicants must submit the requirements set by TÜBİTAK. In addition, the Joint Application Form, which is a common document for both parties, must be submitted to and received by both managing authorities.

Project Scope & Duration

9. What types of projects are supported?

The Call supports Fundamental Research, Industrial Research, and Experimental Development, as defined in the National Rules – Section 1.1 (Definitions – Research and Development) under both State Aid and Non-State Aid frameworks.

10. What Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are eligible?

For Malta-based entities, projects may range from TRL 1 to TRL 7, as specified in the National Rules for Participation.

11. What is the required project duration?

Projects must have a duration of up to 24 months.

12. When must projects start?

The earliest possible Start Date for projects will be fixed at the beginning of the contract negotiations with the national funding organisations and should ideally be within the first 3 months since the publishing of the results (as defined in the National Rules of Participation).

Budget & Funding

13. What is the maximum funding available for Malta-based partners?

The maximum funding available per project for Malta-based partner(s) is €100,000. If more than one Malta-based partner participates in the same project, this amount must be shared.

14. What costs are eligible for funding?

Eligible costs are defined in the National Rules – Non-State Aid (Section 4.1: Eligible Costs) and in the State Aid Rules (Section 4.1: Common Eligible Costs; Sections 4.2 and 4.3 for regulation-specific provisions). Eligible categories include personnel costs, specialised equipment, research consumables, IP-related costs, subcontracted activities, travel (where applicable), and overheads and indirect costs calculated at a flat rate of 20% of eligible direct costs.

15. Is co-financing required and how is funding disbursed?

Under the Non-State Aid Rules, funding may cover up to 100% of eligible costs (Section 4: Aid Intensity). Under the State Aid Rules, funding intensity depends on whether support is granted under De Minimis (Section 4.2) or GBER (Section 4.3). Disbursement procedures are governed by Section 7.1 (Allocation and Disbursement of

Funding) of the relevant National Rules and are subject to reporting and contractual compliance.