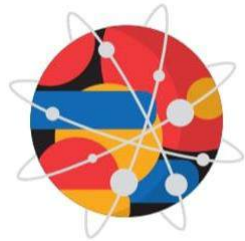


# M-ERA.NET 2026

## Xjenza Malta's Info Session

26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 @11:00 – 12:00 hrs



INTERNATIONALISATION

Kaylen Borg – *Executive*



**XJENZA**  
MALTA

# M-ERA.NET

## Joint Call 2026

Call Now Open



# Before We Begin

- **This session will be recorded.** Both the presentation and the recording will be made available on the XM website.
- A **dedicated Q&A segment** will follow the presentation.
- During the presentation, we kindly ask that you submit any questions via the chat function.
- To minimize background noise, please keep your microphone muted unless you are invited to speak.

# Technical Units



Space  
Unit

Policy and Strategy  
Unit

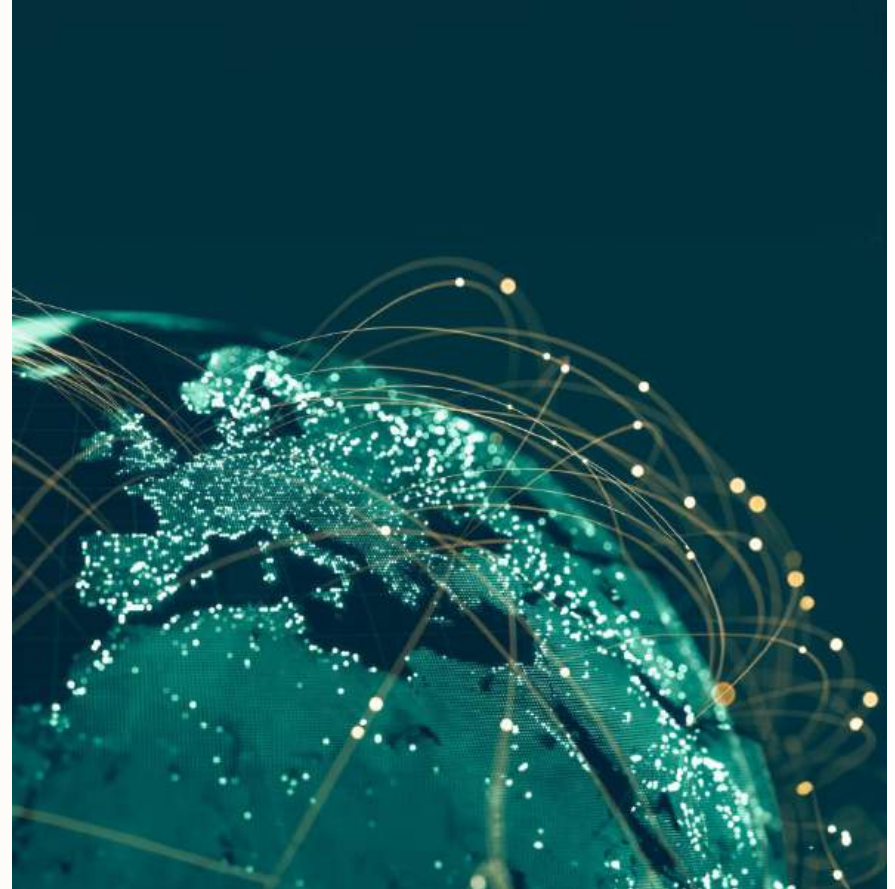
Framework  
Programme Unit

Internationalisation  
Unit

R&I  
Unit

# The Internationalisation Unit

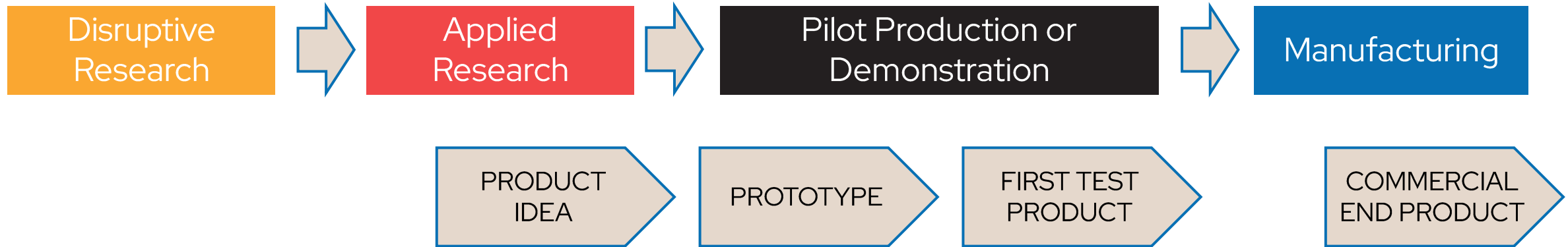
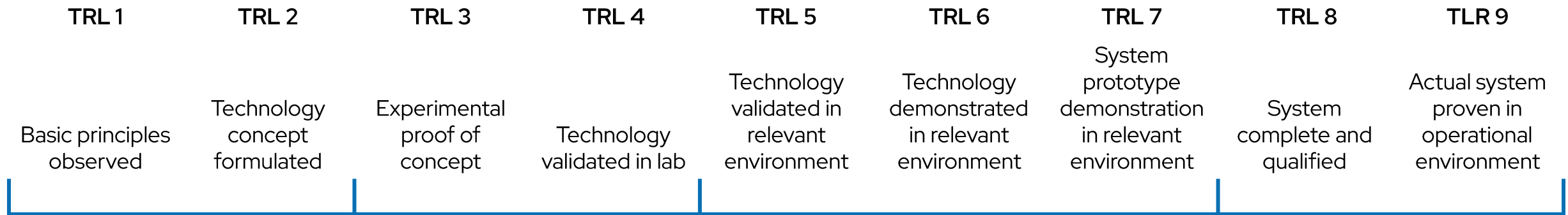
- **Follow international trends** in Research, Development and Innovation through its representation in international and regional science diplomacy forums
- **Strengthen international R&I collaboration** amongst local and foreign researchers and stakeholders
- Implements regional and international funding programmes, **using national funds**, aimed at the local R&I stakeholder community



# Internationalisation Funding Portfolio



# Technology Readiness Level (TRL)





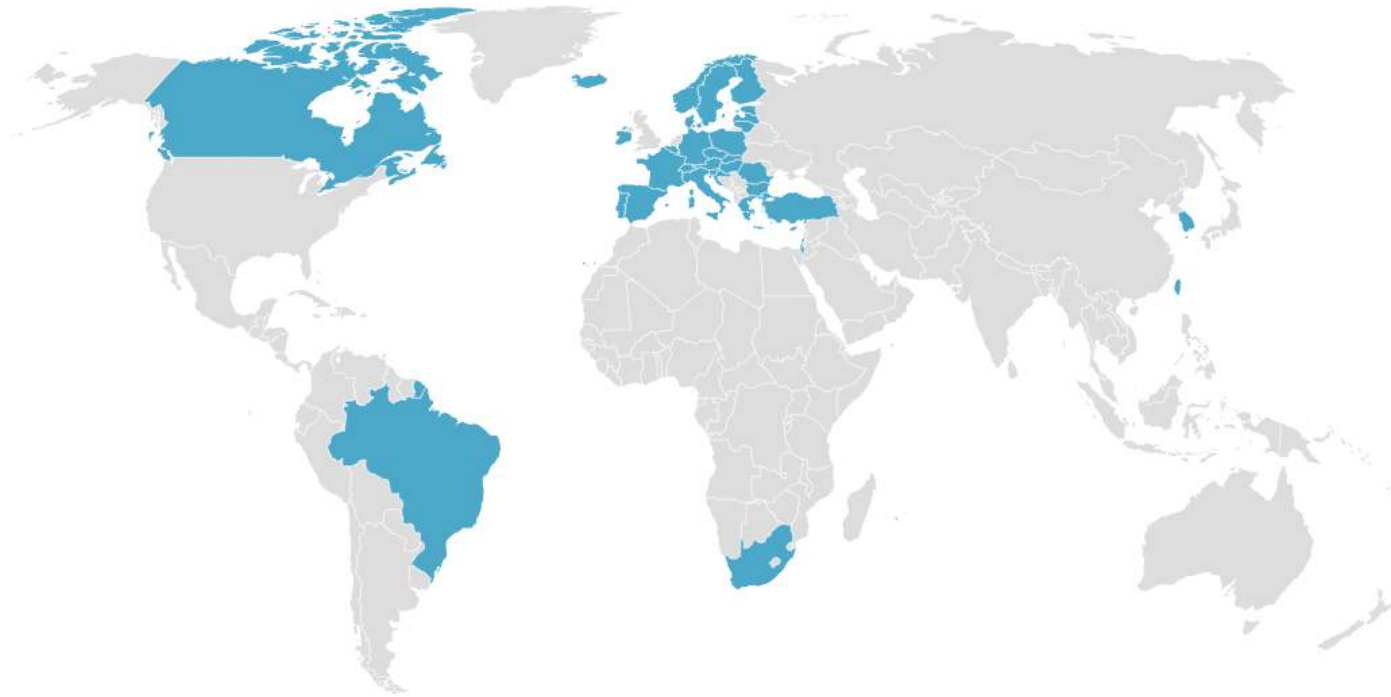
# M-ERA.NET

ERA-NET for research and innovation on materials and battery technologies, supporting the European Green Deal

# Overview

- Strong European network of public funding organisations to enhance coordination and alignment of national and regional R&I funding programmes in **materials and battery technologies**.
- Aims to strengthen the European Research Area (ERA) in the field of **advanced materials and contributing to the objectives of the European Green Deal**.
- M-ERA.NET began in 2012 (FP7), evolved through M-ERA.NET 2 (2016–2022) and M-ERA.NET 3 (to 2026, Horizon 2020 ERA-NET), and **will continue as M-ERA.NET 4 (2026–2029, Coordination and Support Action)**.

# M-ERA.NET consortium



- ✓ **34** public funding organisations
- ✓ from **28** countries
- ✓ **300,000 EUR** per project for Malta-based applicants



Topic 1

### Materials for energy storage and distribution systems

The scope covers innovative materials, devices and systems that store and distribute any kind of energy (electrical, chemical, mechanical, thermal energy, among others).

[→ topic description](#)

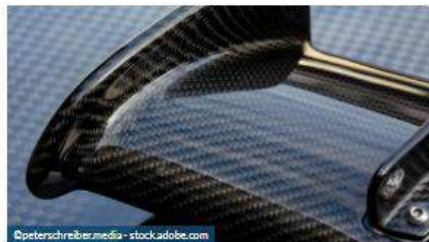


Topic 2

### Materials for energy conversion

This topic supports the development and deployment of advanced materials and processes that accelerate the energy transition across generation, conversion and mobility.

[→ topic description](#)

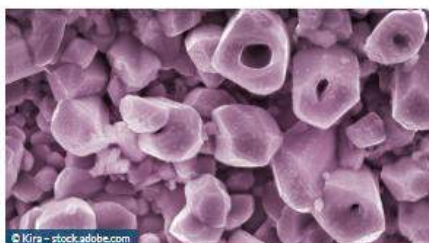


Topic 3

### Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces

Surface and coating technologies are key enablers for new solutions across numerous industrial sectors worldwide.

[→ topic description](#)



Topic 4

### Innovative functional materials with defined architectures

The scope of topic 4 covers the development of materials and material systems with defined architectures that provide specific properties and desired functionalities.

[→ topic description](#)



Topic 5

### Materials addressing environmental challenges

The reduction of resources and waste and increased materials recyclability, in accordance with a sustainable development, is becoming a necessity related to decarbonization and circular economy.

[→ topic description](#)



Topic 6

### Next Generation Materials for Electronics

The topic supports proposals on materials research and its application, with special focus on specific properties for electronics.

[→ topic description](#)

# Joint Transnational Call 2026 Topics



# Joint Transnational Call 2026 - TRL

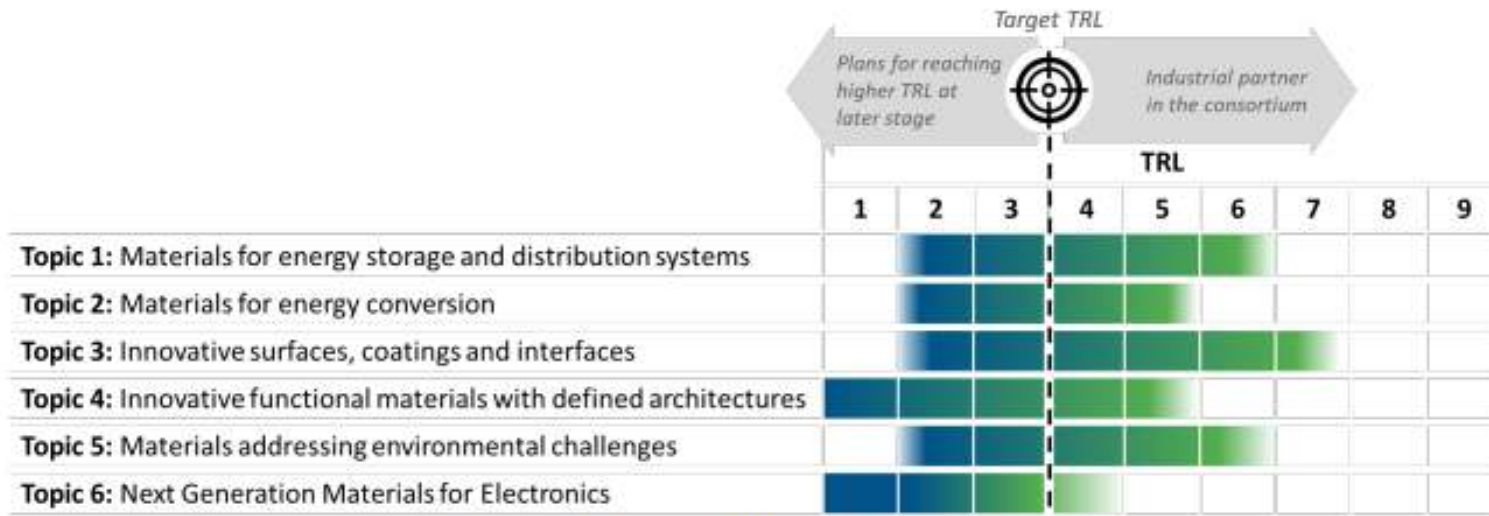


Fig. 1: indicative TRL range in each topic

Specific TRL level for each topic

# Joint Transnational Call 2026



## General Call Specifications:

- 2-Stage Call
- Involving **national & transnational application**
- **300,000 EUR** per project for Malta-based applicants
- Projects up to **36 months**
- At least **3 independent legal entities** from at least **3 Countries** participating in the Call. (No Upper Limit)
- **1 Project Coordinator**

# Joint Transnational Call 2026 – General criteria

- Participation of **self-funded partners** allowed.
- If a partner is responsible for more than **15% of the total project efforts** (measured in person month) is found to be ineligible, the project will not be eligible.
- The total effort of **one single applicant cannot exceed 60%** of the total project efforts.
- The total effort of applicants from **one country cannot exceed 70%** of the total project efforts.
- All Consortium Partners need a **Participant Identification Code (PIC)**.
- Check topic-specific eligibility conditions in the [Guide for Proposers 2026](#).

# Joint Transnational Call 2026– Evaluation Criteria

Main Criteria	Sub Criteria	Score (points)
Excellence	Clarity and pertinence of research objectives and hypotheses	max. 1.5
	Novelty, originality, position of concepts and approaches in relation to the state of the art (ambition, innovation potential, ground-breaking objectives)	max. 2.0
	Appropriateness of the methodology, credibility of the proposed approach and soundness of the concept, including TRL and the approach to RRI	max. 1.5
Impact	Relevance to the objectives of the specific call topic and to the cross-cutting objectives	max. 2.0
	Contribution at the European or international level to the expected impacts listed in the Guide for Proposers under the relevant topic	max. 2.0
	Engagement of the proposed research with the horizontal objectives, sustainability and RRI	max. 1.0
Implementation	Competences, experience and complementarity of each of the consortium members and the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance, inter- or transdisciplinarity)	max. 2.0
	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan including the overall management of the project	max. 2.0
	Overall appropriateness of the proposal budget and other resources to be committed by individual partners (overall person month balance)	max. 1.0

Each Criteria has a maximum of **5 points**, for a total maximum score of **15 points**.

## Minimum Thresholds:

3/5 for each evaluation criterion  
10/15 in Total

*Projects should maintain a balanced **distribution** of work, activities, and funding across countries.*

N.B. this is the Pre-proposal evaluation criteria.

# Participating Countries

		Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4	Topic 5	Topic 6	Indicative call budget (Mio €)	national / regional regulations
Austria	✉ FFG-KLWPT			X	X			3.00	± FFG-KLWPT
Belgium (Flanders)	✉ HERMESFUND/VLAIO	X	X	X	X	X	X	1.00	± HERMESFUND/VLAIO
Belgium (French Speaking Community)	✉ F.R.S.-FNRS	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.30	± FRS
Belgium (Wallonia)	✉ SPW	X	X	X	X	X	X	1.00	± SPW
Brazil (Sao Paulo)	✉ FAPESP	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.80	± FAPESP
Bulgaria	✉ BNSF	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.45	± BNSF
Canada (Québec)	✉ PRIMA	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.60	± PRIMA
Croatia	✉ MSEY	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.15	± MSEY
Czech Republic	✉ TA CR	X	X	X	X	X	X	1.50	± TA CR
Estonia	✉ ETAG	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.15	± ETAG
France	✉ ANR	X	X		X		X	1.00	± ANR
Germany	✉ BMBFTR / PUJ (Batteries)	X		X	X			5.00	± BMFTR/PUJ (Batteries)
Germany	✉ BMBFTR / PUJ (Mat2Twin)			X	X	X		2.00	± BMFTR/PUJ (Mat2Twin) ± DE Info
Germany (Saxony)	✉ SMWK	X	X	X	X	X	X	3.00	± SMWK
Hungary	✉ NKFIH	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.30	± NKFIH
Israel	✉ MOST	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.20	± MOST
Italy (Calabria)	✉ Regione Calabria	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.30	± Regione Calabria
Latvia	✉ LZP	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.60	± LZP
Lithuania	✉ LMT	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.50	± LMT
Luxembourg	✉ FNR	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.35	± FNR
Malta	✉ XM	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.30	± XM
Norway	✉ RCN	X	X	X	X	X	X	2.40	± RCN
Poland	✉ NCBR	X	X	X	X	X	X	2.50	± NCBR
Poland	✉ NCN	X	X	X	X	X	X	1.50	± NCN
Slovak Republic	✉ SAS	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.36	± SAS
Slovenia	✉ MVZI	X	X	X	X	X	X	2.40	± MVZI
South Africa	✉ DSTI	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.40	± DSTI
South Korea	✉ KIAT	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.90	± KIAT
Spain	✉ AEI/FECYT	X	X	X	X	X	X	1.00	± AEI/FECYT
Spain (Asturias)	✉ SEKUENS	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.25	± SEKUENS
Spain (Basque)	✉ EJ-GV	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.50	± EJ-GV
Sweden	✉ VINNOVA	X	X	X	X	X	X	1.00	± VINNOVA
Switzerland	✉ SFOE	X	X					2.00	± SFOE
Taiwan	✉ NSTC	X	X	X	X	X	X	0.75	± NSTC
Türkiye	✉ TÜBİTAK	X	X	X	X	X	X	1.00	± TÜBİTAK



# National Rules

# 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

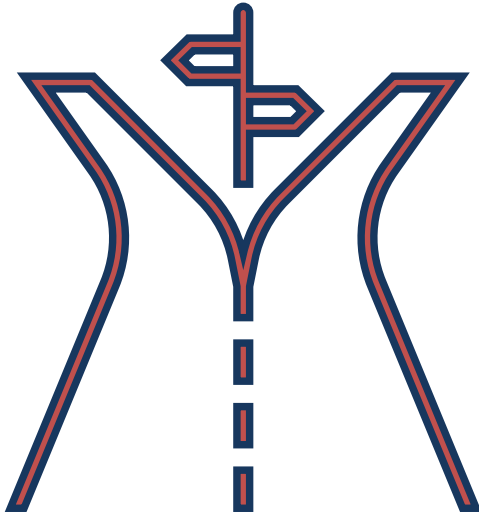
Professional  
Bodies

Cooperatives

Public entities

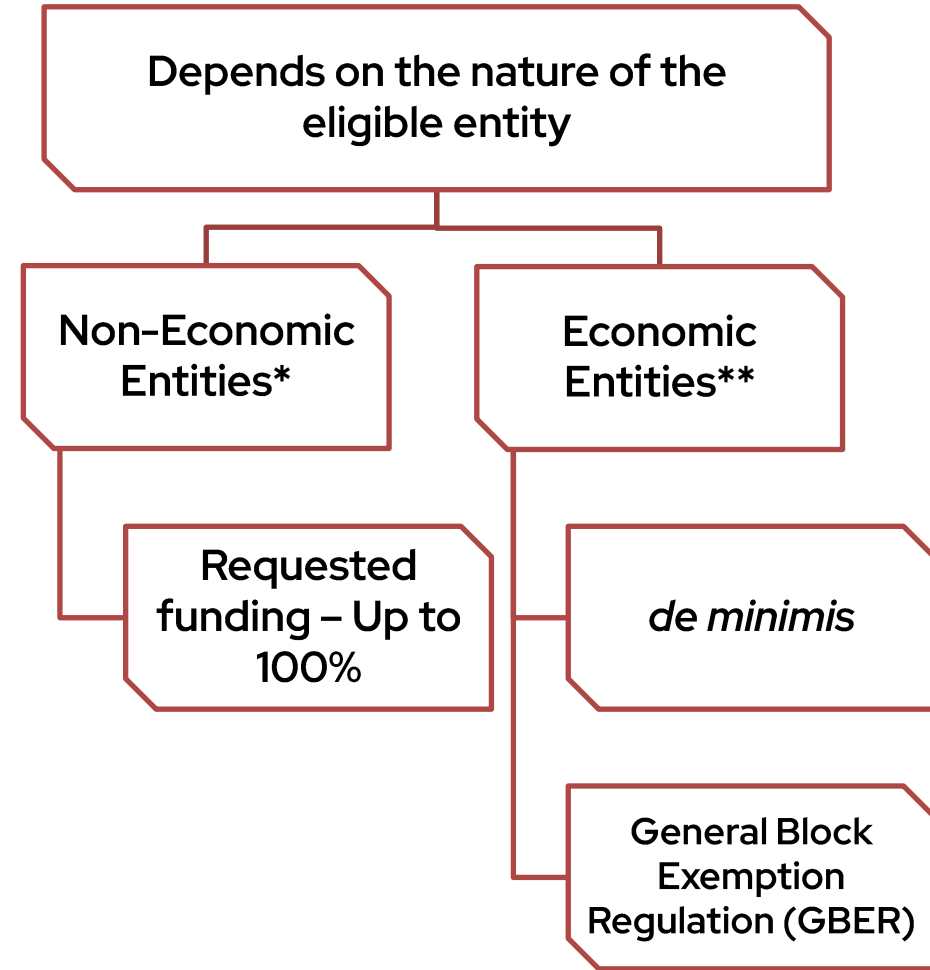
Research &  
Knowledge-  
Dissemination  
Organisations

# 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

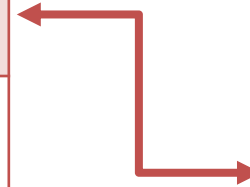
\*\* Undertakings that carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU.



# Aid Intensities

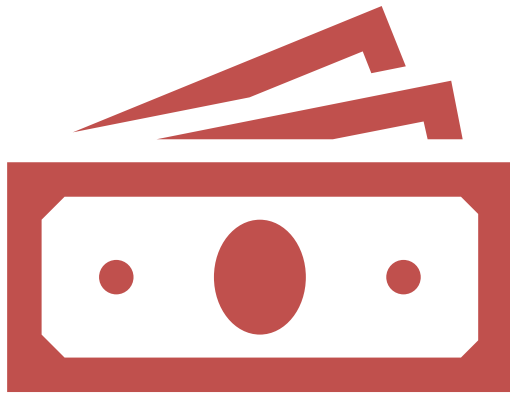
Economic entity	de minimis*	GBER
Requested funding	Up to 75%	Up to 70%
Own contribution	Remainder % (not in-kind)	Remainder % (not in-kind)

\*Capping of € 300,000 over 3 years



Aid Intensity	Undertaking Size		Extra funding for projects prioritizing Effective Collaboration & Wide Dissemination
25%	Small	+ 20%	+ 25%
	Medium	+ 10%	
	Large	+ 0%	

# Eligible Costs



Personnel costs

Specialised  
Equipment &  
Consumables

Subcontracting

Costs of IP and  
Knowledge  
Transfer  
activities

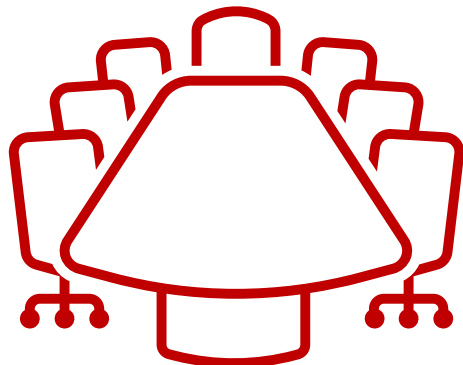
Travel &  
Subsistence

Overheads and  
Other Operating  
Expenses

# Personnel Costs

## Non-economic/de minimis/GBER

- **Project Management – up to 10% of total project value** (*should be allocated to and described within research tasks*)
- **Students – EUR 6,000–8,000 p.a.**
- **Maximum of 1720 hours p.a.**
- **Hourly rates specified in national rules**



€z = (basic salary + allowances) / yearly workable hours of the employee.

Role in Project	Hourly rates in 2027	Hourly rates in 2028	Hourly rates in 2029	Limits per project
Management or equivalent	Up to €63.82/hour	Up to €67.01/hour	Up to €70.36/hour	Max 2 per project
Senior Researcher <sup>2</sup> or equivalent	Up to €44.98/hour	Up to €47.23/hour	Up to €49.59/hour	Max 2 per project
Researcher <sup>3</sup> or equivalent	Up to €32.22/hour	Up to €33.83/hour	Up to €35.52/hour	No limits
Operational, technician, research support assistant or equivalent	Up to €17.67/hour	Up to €18.55/hour	Up to €19.48/hour	No limits

Table 1 Eligible Hourly Rates

The rates stated in the table above are for the years 2027-2029. For subsequent years a 5% increase per year is allowed.

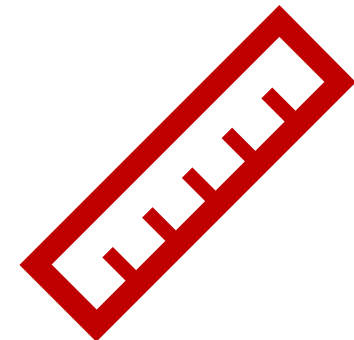
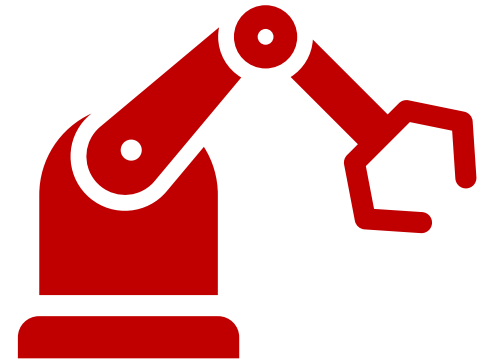
# Equipment and Consumables

## Non-economic /de minimis

- Cost to **purchase/lease** specialised equipment
- Cost of **research consumables** should **not exceed 30%** of the project value

## GBER

- The costs of **specialised equipment** is only **eligible** if the **lifetime of the equipment is equal to the lifetime of the project.**
- **Depreciation costs** of specialised equipment for the extent and period used for the project. To be verified by a **certified public accountant**
- Cost of **research consumables** should **not exceed 30%** of the project value

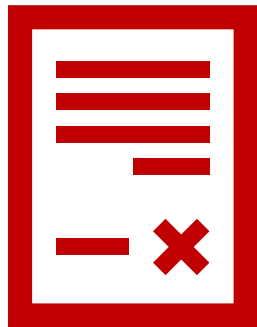


# Subcontracting

## Non-economic/de minimis/GBER

- Allowed up to 25% of the project value
- Must follow fair procurement procedures

*To be discussed with the Call Manager at application stage*

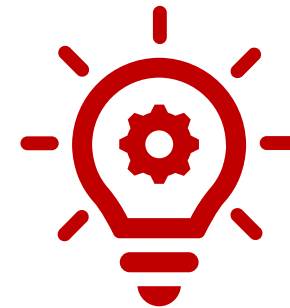


# IP and Knowledge Transfer Activities

## Non-economic/de minimis/GBER

- Costs of knowledge transfer activities and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions.

*To be discussed with the Call Manager at the application stage*



# Travel and Subsistence

## Non-economic /de minimis

- Economy flights, and public transport (most economic solutions) and per diems for up to 14 days in a row.
- For the attendance of consortium meetings, up to two persons will be eligible to attend the meeting.
- For the attendance of international conferences, up to two persons will be eligible to attend every six months.



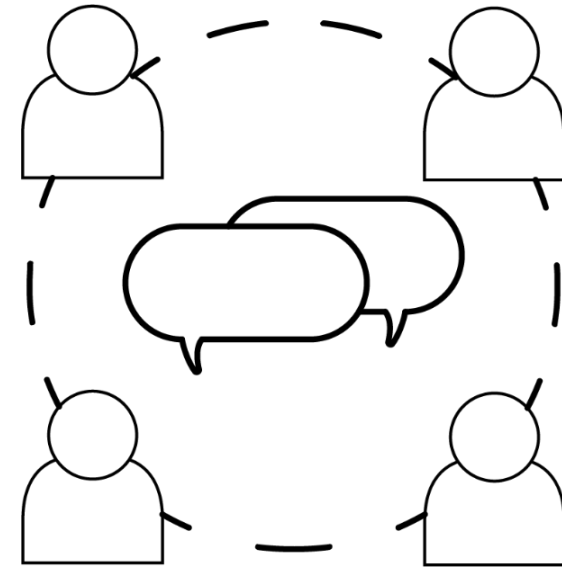
## GBER

- Travel costs are not eligible.

# Overheads and Other Operating Expenses

## Non-economic/de minimis/GBER

- Are costs that are incurred **directly** as a result of the project.
- These will be covered at **20% of direct eligible costs claimed.**



# Ineligible Costs

- Expenses related to **loans, interests** etc.
- Expenses which are **recoverable through other funding mechanisms**
- **Re-purchase of the same equipment** originally procured through other funding mechanisms
- **Purchase and/or leasing of equipment** and services from partners or their subsidiaries
- **Standard office equipment**
- **Personnel hours for travelling**
- Any other costs that are **not listed as eligible costs** in the National Rules





# Application Process



# Application Process: Pre-proposal Stage

1

Submit the National Application Form and relevant annexes *via* email to [eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt](mailto:eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt) by 12 May 2026, 23:59 CET.

2

The **Project Coordinator** submits the **Pre-Proposal** to M-ERA.NET (jointly with the other partners) via the **online submission tool** by **12 May 2026 12:00 CET**.

3

**Xjenza Malta** will perform an **administrative check** on the documents provided from your end. If **all partners** are found **eligible** by their **respective funding agency**, the proposal will be **evaluated and ranked**.

# Submission Procedure – Stage 1

## Stage 1: Pre-Proposal Submission

- The coordinator **creates an account** on the Online Submission Tool.
- The coordinator **adds partners** to the consortium. Partners can input their own data and need to **validate** their participation.
- Required indicative budget for each partner. Category budgets can be indicative, but the **total cannot increase**.
- National documentation and annexes as per National Rules.

Documents	Public entities	Public RKDOs	<i>de minimis</i>	GBER
<i>Pre-Proposal Stage (Stage 1)</i>				
<i>National Application Form</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Public entities - Annex</i>	X			
<i>Public RKDOs - Annex</i>		X		
<i>CVs</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Memorandum &amp; Articles of Association (Or any respective constitutive documents)</i>			X	X

# Submission Procedure – Stage 2

## Stage 2: Full Proposal Submission (Upon Invitation)

- M-ERA.NET will send the full-proposal application template to coordinators of those proposals invited to stage 2.
- Required **detailed budget** for each partner.
- Coordinator submits the full-proposal on behalf of the partners
- Further national documentation and annexes as per national Rules.

Documents	Public entities	Public RKDOs	<i>de minimis</i>	GBER
<i>Full Proposal Stage (Stage 2)</i>				
<i>Budget Breakdown Form</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>de minimis Form</i>			X	
<i>Enterprise Size Declaration Form &amp; Undertaking in Difficulty</i>				X
<i>Declarations for Augmented Aid Intensity</i>				X
<i>Audited financial statements (last 3 years)*</i>			X	X

*\*start-ups that do not have the above documents available, please provide financial projections for three (3) years signed by an auditor*

# Submission Documents - Attachments

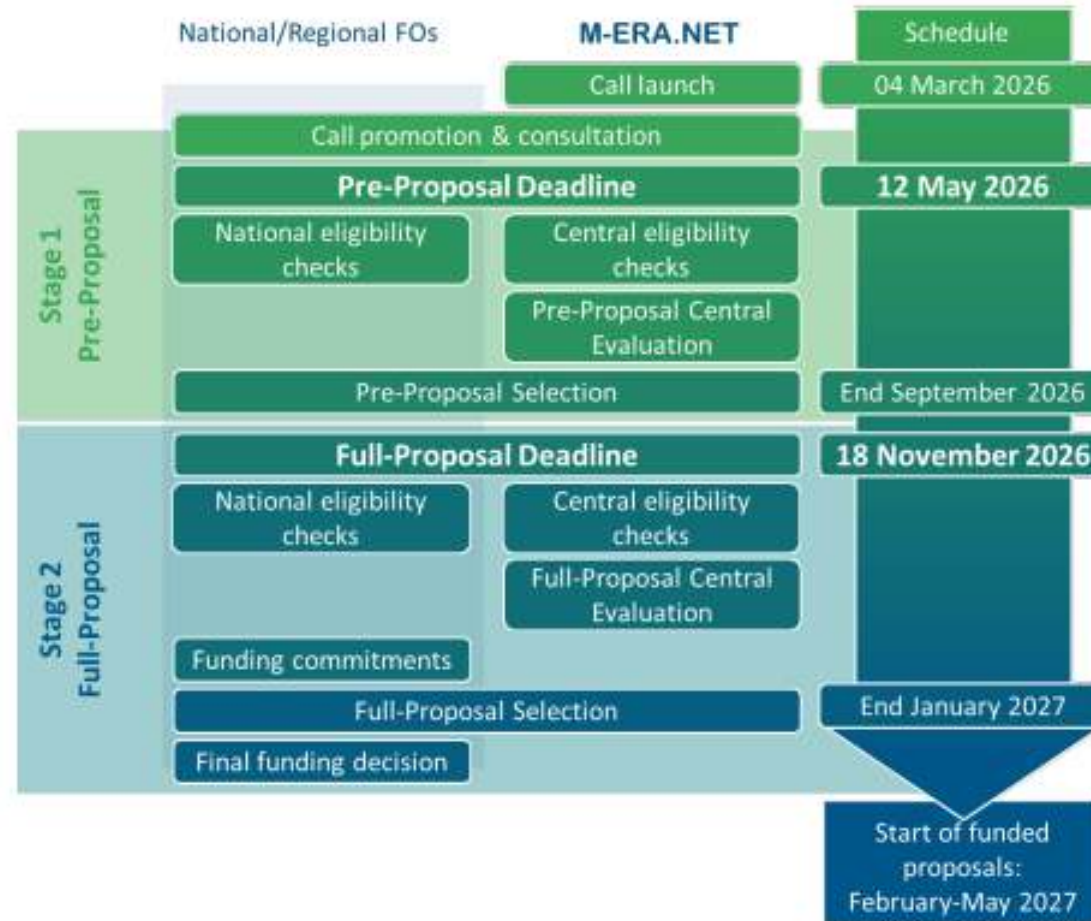
The screenshot shows the XJENZA MALTA website. The navigation menu includes 'About Us', 'What We Do', 'Funding Schemes', 'Media', 'Esplora', 'Villa Bigli', 'Contact Us', and a flag icon. The 'Funding Schemes' menu is open, showing 'Open Funding Schemes', 'Closed Funding Schemes', and 'Resources Page'. A yellow arrow points from the 'Open Funding Schemes' link to a banner for 'M-ERA.NET Joint Call 2026' with a 'Call Now Open' button. A green arrow points from the 'Resources Page' link to a grey box labeled 'Resources Page'. Below the banner, the text reads 'Creating the best possible environment for R&I to flourish.' and 'Xjenza Malta'. At the bottom, it says 'Published On: March 5th, 2026' and 'M-ERA.NET Joint Call 2026'.

**Resources Page**

- Relevant Annexes can be found here

- National Rules of Participation
- National Application Form

# Timeline of Call



# Get Connected with Partners

The M-ERA.NET partnering tool helps applicants find project partners and build a consortium. It works as follows:

1. **Register** to submit a partner offer or partner search.
2. **Create a profile** by adding contact details, a brief description of your organization, relevant keywords, and your expertise related to M-ERA.NET topics. Each post can cover up to three topics (more topics require separate posts).
3. Choose your post type:
  - Partner Offer** – You offer your expertise and seek collaboration.
  - Partner Search** – You (or your consortium) have a project idea and are looking for additional partners.
4. **Browse existing posts** by searching through lists of partner offers and partner requests.

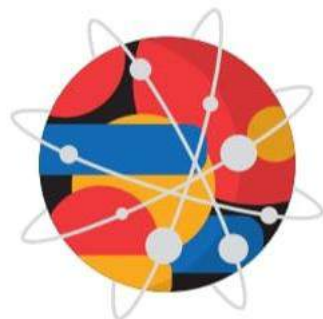
[Partnersearch - M-ERA.NET](#)

# Important Links

- M-ERA.NET website: <https://www.m-era.net/home>
- M-ERA.NET Call 2026 documents: <https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2026>
- Xjenza Malta National Rules and forms : <https://xjenzamalta.mt/2026/03/05/m-era-net-joint-call-2026/>
- Xjenza Malta Resource Page: <https://xjenzamalta.mt/resources-page/>

# Any Questions?





INTERNATIONALISATION



# CONTACT

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