

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

Joint Transnational Call 2026



Xjenza Malta's Info Session

07 October 2026 @ 11:00 CET

Internationalisation

Luca Halasz
Executive

Margherita Muscat
Executive

Before We Begin



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



During the presentation, please use the chat box to ask questions. They will be answered during the Q&A session following the presentation.



The session will be recorded. The presentation and recording will be made available on the Xjenza Malta website.

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Xjenza Malta

The national government agency responsible for developing and implementing national policies for Research, Innovation and Space



Technical Units



Space
Unit

Policy and Strategy
Unit

Framework
Programme Unit

Internationalisation
Unit

R&I
Unit

Internationalisation Unit Funding Portfolio



Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership Introduction

➤ The partnership:

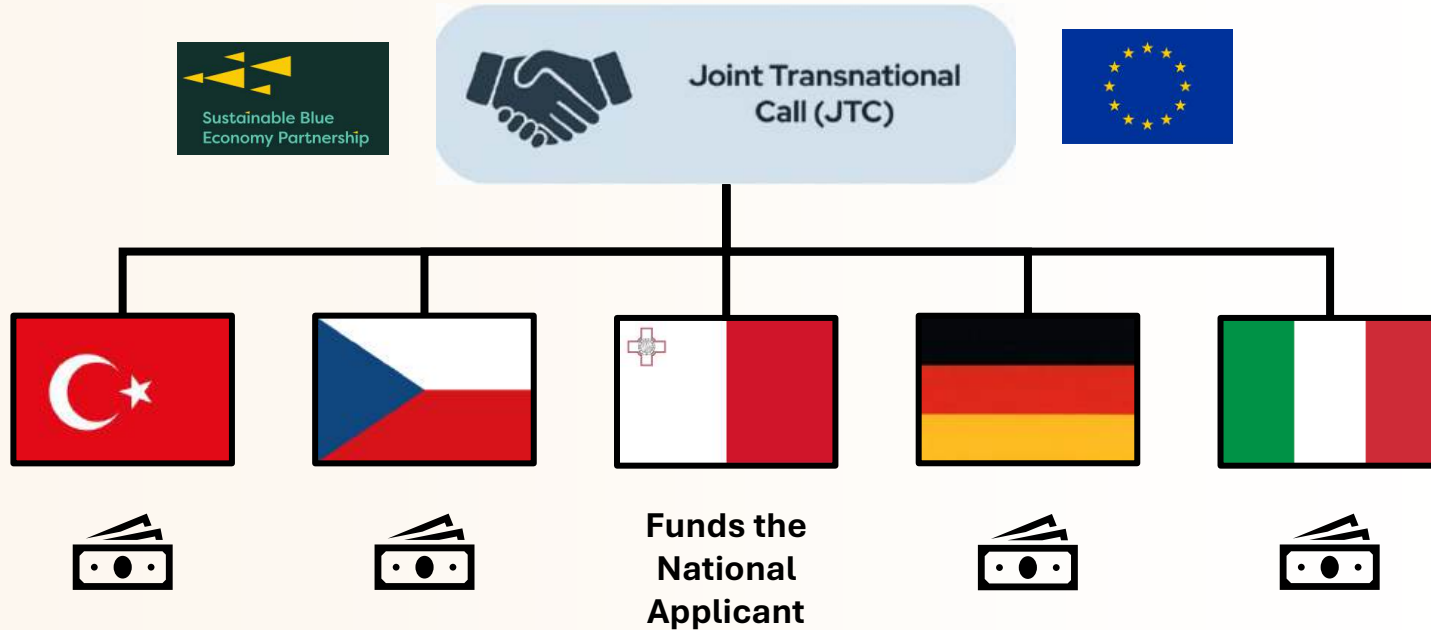
- More than 250€ Million planned investment
- Currently 74 partners and the EC, 30 countries

Vision & Aims:

- Drive the transition towards a sustainable and resilient blue economy
- Support ocean health and sustainability
- Strengthen R&I cooperation and innovation
- Support the Green Deal, digital transformation and innovative governance



How does it work?



National Partners collaborate through a common call, each beneficiary funded by their own national funding agency

2026 General Call Specifications

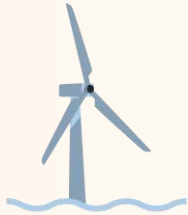
“Building a Sustainable and Innovative Blue Economy; Mastering Digital Opportunities and Fostering Resilience”

- Project duration **must be 36 months**
- Maximum Budget for each Malta-Based applicant: **EUR 500,000**
- **Must** address one main priority area
- Applicants **strongly** recommended to include min. of 2 EU sea basins: the Atlantic Ocean, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and North Sea

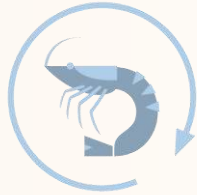
2026 General Call Specifications

- **2 stage call:** involving both **national and transnational applications**
- Consortium must be at least **3 eligible partners from different countries** participating in call
(3 different PFO)
- Project must involve at least **2 independent** legal entities from **2 different EU Member States**
- Each project consortium must have a **Coordinator who** submits the full application via the
[SBEP EPSS](#) online tool

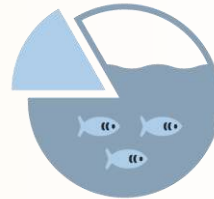
Priority Areas



Transitioning the blue economy sectors for sustainability and strategic autonomy



Managing sea-uses by advancing digital and ecosystem-based approaches



Promoting sustainable blue bioresources through innovation in marine production and harvesting



Building resilience in coastal communities with infrastructure and businesses

Link to call text: <https://www.bluepartnership.eu/funding-opportunity/sustainable-blue-economy-partnerships-fourth-joint-transnational-call>



National Specifications

Eligible for National Funding

**Limited Liability
Company**

Partnerships

**Non-profit making
Organisations**

**Voluntary
Organisations**

**Professional
Bodies**

Cooperatives

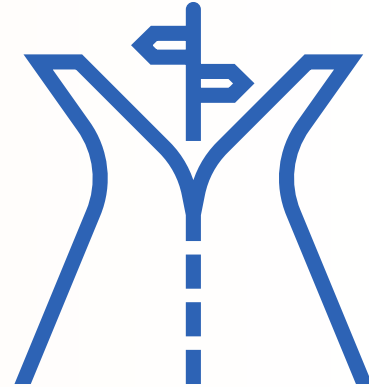
Public entities

**Research &
Knowledge-
Dissemination
Organisations**

All Malta-based applicants must comply with the National Rules for Participation

Funding Modalities

- **Non-economic entities** (e.g. public entities and public research organisations): 100%
- **Economic entities** (e.g. private entities):
 - *De minimis* – up to 75% Aid Intensity
 - GBER – up to 70% Aid Intensity



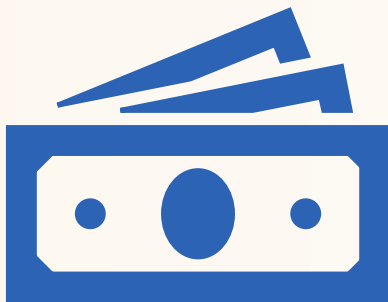
Aid Intensities

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

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

*Capping of € 300,000 over 3 years

Eligible Costs



Personnel

**Specialised
Equipment &
Consumables**

Subcontracting

**Costs of IP and
Knowledge Transfer
activities**

**Travel &
Subsistence**

**Overheads and
Other Operating
Expenses**

Personnel Costs

- **Project Management** hours linked with research tasks– **up to 10% of total project value**
- **Students** – EUR 6,000-8,000 p.a.
- Maximum of **1720 hours** p.a. for full time employees

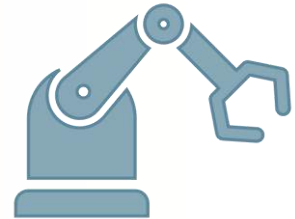
Role in Project	Hourly rates in 2027	Hourly rates in 2028	Hourly rates in 2029	Limits per project
Management or equivalent	Up to €63.82/hour	Up to €67.01/hour	Up to €70.36/hour	Max 2 per project
Senior Researcher or equivalent	Up to €44.98/hour	Up to €47.23/hour	Up to €49.59/hour	Max 2 per project
Researcher 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

Rates are for the years 2027-2029. For subsequent years, a 5% increase per year is allowed.

Equipment and Consumables

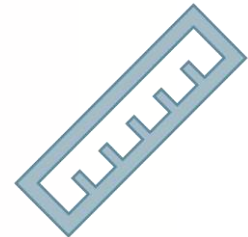
Non-economic /de minimis

- 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 the 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 per 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

1

Submit the National Application Form and relevant annexes *via* email to eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt by **16th November 2026 23:59 CET**

2

A pre-proposal eligibility check will be carried out both at the **international level** (by the JCS, based on the general eligibility rules) and at the **national/regional level**.

3

If applicants have successfully passed the Stage 1 (eligibility checks and evaluation), they will be invited to submit a full proposal at Stage 2. Further documents will need to be provided at Stage 2.

Submission Procedure – Stage 1

Stage 1: Pre-Proposal Submission

- The coordinator **creates an account on** [EPSS](#) 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	de minimis Applicants	GBER Applicants
Pre-Proposal Stage (1 st Stage)				
National Application Form	X	X	X	X
CVs	X	X	X	X
Public entities annex	X			
Public RKDOs annex		X		
Memorandum & Articles of Association (Or any respective constitutive documents)			X	X

Submission Procedure – Stage 2

Stage 2: Full Proposal Submission (Upon Invitation)

- The coordinator submits a **16-page** project description on the [EPSS](#) Online Submission Tool.
- Required detailed budget for each partner
- **Information given in pre-proposals is binding.** It is not possible to change the content of the project between Stage 1 and 2.
- Further national documentation and annexes as per national Rules

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

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

GBER – Specific Consideration

GBER updates:

- Current GBER regulation applies until 31st December 2026
- Applicants under GBER may be required to resubmit their application should they be selected to submit a stage 2 proposal.
- We will assist and advise accordingly!



Submission Documents - Attachments

The screenshot shows the Xjenza Malta website. The navigation bar includes links for 'About Us', 'What We Do', 'Funding Schemes', 'Media', 'Esplora', 'Villa Bighi', 'Contact Us', and a flag icon. The 'Funding Schemes' dropdown menu is open, showing 'Open Funding Schemes', 'Closed Funding Schemes', and 'Resources Page'. A large orange arrow points from the 'Funding Schemes' menu to a document titled 'Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership 2026'. A large green arrow points from the 'Resources Page' menu to a grey box labeled 'Resources Page'.

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership 2026

Published On: September 18th, 2026

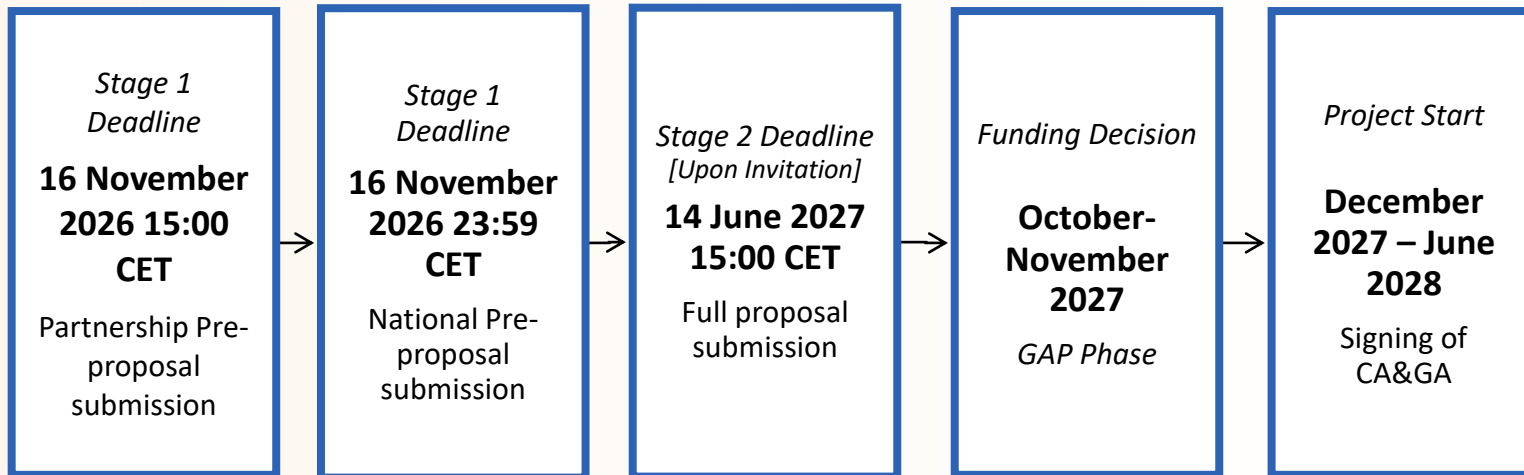
[Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership 2026](#)

- National Rules for Participation
- National Application Form

Resources Page

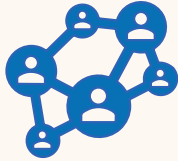
- Relevant Annexes can be found here

Call Timeline



Get Connected with Partners

1



SBEP
[Partner Search
Tool](#)

2

PART 
FINDER

[Partnership Partner Search
Tool](#)

3



Get in Contact
With Us



CONTACT

xjenzamalta.mt



eusubmissions.xjenzamalta@gov.mt



luca.halasz@gov.mt ; margherita.muscat.1@gov.mt



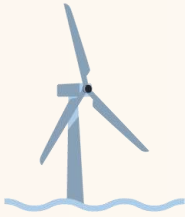
XJENZA MALTA
VILLA BIGHI, DAWRET FRA GIOVANNI BICHI
KALKARA, KKR 1320



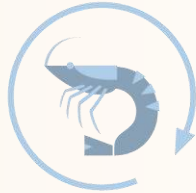
Any Questions?



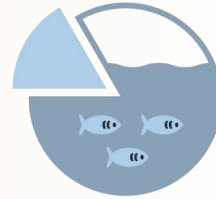
Priority Areas



Transitioning the blue economy sectors for sustainability and strategic autonomy



Managing sea-uses by advancing digital and ecosystem-based approaches



Promoting sustainable blue bioresources through innovation in marine production and harvesting

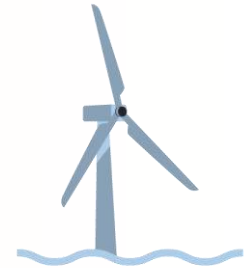


Building resilience in coastal communities with infrastructure and businesses

Priority Area 1:

Transitioning the blue economy sectors for sustainability and strategic autonomy

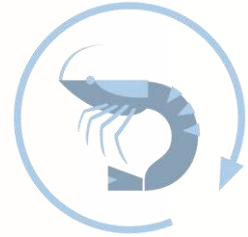
- Transformation towards sustainability, competitiveness
- Strategic autonomy of the blue economy sector
- Digital transitions
- Co-existence and multi-use of the activities and infrastructures at sea
- Development tools, methodologies and management approaches to access marine interventions
- Support ecosystem-based approach



Priority Area 2:

Managing sea-uses by advancing digital and ecosystem-based approaches

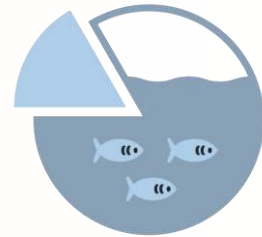
- Support science-based decision-making
- Ecosystem-based management
- Achieve sustainable, ecosystem-based planning and management of sea uses



Priority Area 3:

Promoting sustainable blue bioresources through innovation in marine production and harvesting

- Support a transition towards the sustainable production and utilization of blue bioresources
- Minimise environmental impacts, and growing demand for healthy, affordable and traceable blue food and feed
- Bring EU's fish stock back to healthy level
- Digital tools, remote electronic monitoring system, mobile catch reporting apps, ecosystem modelling, AI
- Data driven sustainable management



Priority Area 4:

Building resilience in coastal communities with infrastructure and businesses

- Tackles the risks and opportunities for European coastal communities
- To deliver knowledge to inform policy and planning interventions, which can generate increased resilience
- Interdisciplinary research to enable an efficient transition

