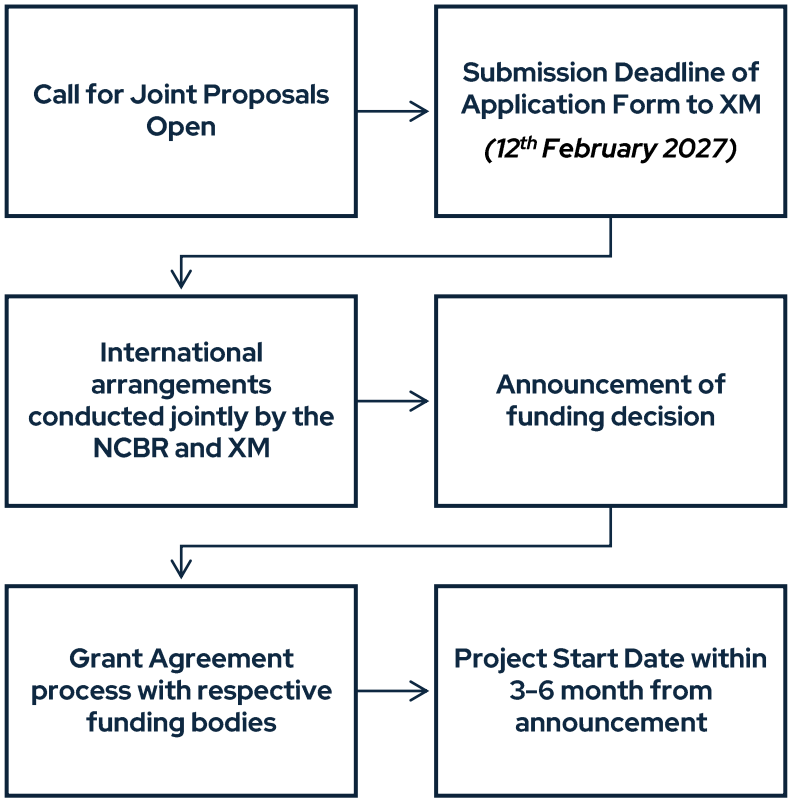
Call Text

2nd Malta-Poland Call for Proposals for Joint Research and Innovation Projects (2026)

Introduction

In 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in Research and Innovation was signed between the Government of the Republic of Malta and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland. In line with this MoU, Xjenza Malta (XM) and the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) are successfully launching the second edition of this Call, which will focus exclusively on thematic areas related to Artificial Intelligence. The Joint Call for Research and Innovation Proposals is co-funded by Xjenza Malta through the Access2GlobalResearch (A2GR) Scheme and by NCBR through the INNOGLOBO programme, with the aim of fostering cooperation and supporting joint initiatives that reflect the shared national priorities of both countries.

Call Timeline and Snapshot



National Rules for Participation 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 eligible Malta-based applicants can be found in the Call page on the Xjenza Malta website. Eligible Poland-based entities may refer to their respective rules on the NCBR website.
Application Form	The Application Form and corresponding Annexes for Malta-based Participants can be found in the Call Page on the Xjenza Malta. Other Annexes to be submitted with the Application Form, for Malta-based participants can be found on the Xjenza Malta Resources Page. Poland-based entities should refer to NCBR documentation for information on the respective Application Forms.
Project Consortia	At least one eligible legal entity operating in Malta and at least one eligible legal entity operating in Poland.
Research Areas	Artificial Intelligence (AI), specifically; - AI technology development (including edge computing, data analysis and processing); - AI in biotechnology, healthcare and demographic challenges, including population ageing; - AI in cybersecurity; - AI for industry, including robotization, automation and autonomous systems.
Supported TRL Levels	1-7 for Malta-based entities. Polish-based entities should refer to the INNOGLOBO 6th Call documentation for the

	specific TRL levels supported under National Rules.
Project Duration	24 – 36 months
Max. funds that can jointly be requested by Malta-based partner/s per project	€200,000
Max. funds that can be requested by Polish-based entities per project	Refer to NCBR documentation for details on funding.
Submission Deadline of Proposal	**Malta-based Entities -** Submission deadline of Application Form with corresponding annexes to Xjenza Malta: **12th February 2027, 23:59 CET** **Poland-based Entities -** Submission of required documentation, including the international application and declaration from Malta-based partner, to NCBR: **12th February 2027**
Xjenza Malta Submission Email	international.xjenzamalta@gov.mt
NCBR Submission Portal	https://lsi.ncbr.gov.pl

Further Details:

1. Call Structure

The Call invites Poland-based and Malta-based partners to submit Joint Research and Innovation (R&I) proposals by the deadlines stipulated in this document and in all accompanying documentation issued by NCBR. Proposals must follow the procedures established by Xjenza Malta and NCBR, as detailed in the Xjenza Malta National Rules for Participation (Malta), the NCBR Rules for the participation of Polish applicants in the 6th Call of the INNOGLOBO Programme (Poland) and this Call text (Malta).

Malta-based partners must submit the Xjenza Malta Application Form by **12th February 2027, 23:59 CET**. Maltese applicants are also responsible to confirm with their Polish counterpart/s and NCBR to see if any documentation from their end is required as part of the Polish counterpart/s submission to NCBR

2. Financing

Eligible participants from Poland and Malta will finance their project costs through the funding schemes applicable under this Call, specifically, the NCBR INNOGLOBO programme for Poland-based participants and the Xjenza Malta A2GR funding programme for Malta-based participants, and, where required, through their own complementary financing.

Approval or eligibility granted by one funding agency does not imply, ensure, or influence eligibility with the other agency. Each funding body may conduct its own independent evaluation, therefore, no commitment or approval from one agency shall bind or obligate the other to provide funding to its respective project participants. Formal confirmation from both agencies is required for a project to be considered eligible for funding.

2.1 Basic Requirements

Project results must contribute to the objective of the Call: **Advancing R&I by generating new knowledge, methods, technologies, or solutions that build upon the current international state of the art**. The project proposals must comply with the following guidelines:

- The partners must include **at least one Poland-based entity and one Malta-based entity.**
- Participation of other Poland-based and Malta-based entities are welcome as additional partners according to each country's funding schemes.

- Companies and/or research organisations from other countries may also participate. These partners' participation is neither funded by NCBR nor Xjenza Malta. They must be included in the international application with the required documentation included.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and differentiated value proposition resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two countries.
- Project duration should range from **24 up to 36 months**.
- The project should demonstrate a balanced contribution by the participants from both countries and must be equally significant to all participants:
    - The share of financial resources contributed by all the partners forming the international consortium should be a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 70% of the total international consortium budget allocated to the project.
- Any partner whose cooperative R&I proposal is consistent with the aforesaid criteria may apply to the present Call in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

3. Thematic Areas

The Call focuses on the following AI-related thematic areas:

- **AI technology development (including edge computing, data analysis and processing);**
- **AI in biotechnology, healthcare and demographic challenges, including population ageing;**
- **AI in cybersecurity;**
- **AI for industry, including robotization, automation and autonomous systems.**

Proposals must directly address the objective of this Call and clearly align with at least one of its thematic areas.

4. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be scientifically evaluated on the basis of:

- Scientific and technical excellence and originality of the project
- Feasibility, quality and effectiveness of the project plan
- Project impact, including anticipated economic effects
- Cooperation between consortium partners and added value of the project in the context of international cooperation

5. Submission

A consortium agreement is not required at the proposal submission stage. All partners seeking funding under this Call must submit an application and any additional documentation required by their respective national funding agency, in accordance with the applicable national rules (see below).

5.1 Poland-based Applicants

Poland-based applicants must submit an international application for project financing according to the Rules for Participation of Polish Applicants in the 6th call of the INNOGLOBO programme. The international application should be submitted by the Polish applicants to the NCBR via the electronic system – Application Generator in LSI 1.0.: https://lsi.ncbr.gov.pl.

5.2 Malta-based Applicants

Each Malta-based partner must submit a Application Form together with all required annexes, in accordance with the applicable National Rules and the requirements specific to their entity type.

The State-aid and Non-state-aid National Rules, along with the Application Form can be downloaded from the Call page on the Xjenza Malta website. Any additional annexes are available on the Xjenza Malta Resources Page.

It is important that each applicant consults with the Xjenza Malta Programme Manager if they are unsure about the required annexes or submission requirements. Incorrect or incomplete submissions may result in the proposal being deemed ineligible and excluded from further evaluation.

While applicants are highly encouraged to consult with their respective funding agency, the applicants remain solely responsible for ensuring compliance with all requirements and must allow sufficient time to seek clarification before the submission deadline.

5.3 Decision and Project Start Date

It is expected that applicants will receive the decision regarding their grant by their national funding organisations by August 2027.

Successful proposals will be required to agree on a common project start date for all partners. This start date must be set as soon as possible following the award announcement and be **no later than 3–6 months from the date of the announcement**.

6. Contact Details

For further information or assistance, applicants should contact the relevant national contact point:

Xjenza Malta Correspondence from **Malta-based** entities should be directed to: **Name:** Justin Cauchi **E-mail: international.xjenzamalta@gov.mt** **Phone**: +356 2360 2302
NCBR Correspondence from **Poland-based** entities should be directed to: **E-mail: innoglobo@ncbr.gov.pl**