

SINO MALTA
BILATERAL FUND

2026 CALL NOW OPEN

SINO-MALTA FUND
JOINT CALL FOR R&I PROPOSALS

INFORMATION SESSION

Wednesday 18 November 2026

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

XJENZA MALTA

中华人民共和国科学技术部
Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China

SINO-MALTA Fund 2026 Joint Call for R&I Proposals

Information Session Event

xjenzamalta.mt

Housekeeping Notes



QUESTIONS

Post them in the chat

Please hold your questions until the official Q&A session starts. In the meantime, post your questions in the chat.



MICROPHONES

Stay muted

Please remain muted until you are invited to speak.

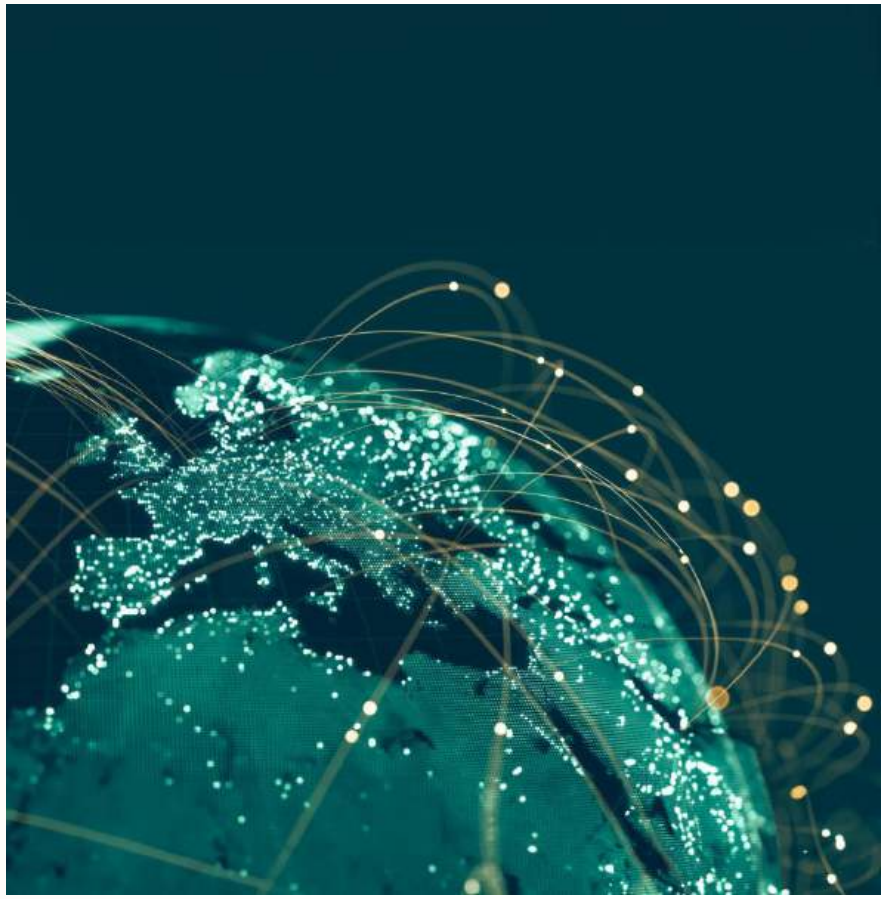
DISCLAIMER

Important notice

The information contained in this presentation is provided for **guidance purposes only** and is subject to the official national documentation issued by **Xjenza Malta and MOST**. In the event of any inconsistency or contradiction, **the information contained in the official documentation shall prevail** over the content of this presentation. Applicants are advised **not to rely solely on this presentation** when completing or submitting their application, as additional requirements, conditions, and details are outlined in the official documentation and must be reviewed carefully.

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





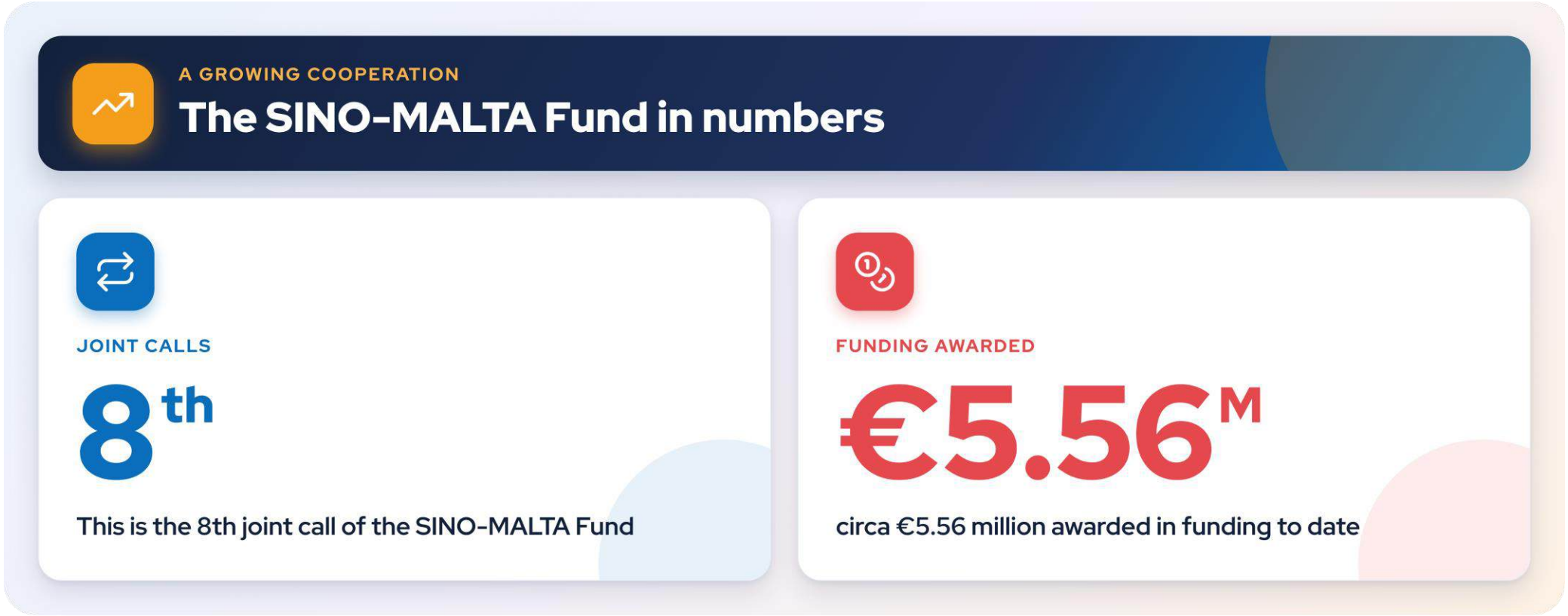
SINO-MALTA Fund General Overview

- The SINO-MALTA Fund Research and Innovation (R&I) programme administered by Xjenza Malta, established through agreements on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Governments of Malta and China, in collaboration with China's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST).

- Its primary objective is to strengthen long-term research collaboration between the two countries through joint R&D activities, technology transfer, researcher mobility and networking between industries, universities and research institutions, fostering mutually beneficial research and innovation partnerships.

SINO MALTA
BILATERAL FUND

SINO-MALTA Fund General Overview



Call Snapshot

PROJECT DURATION

up to **24 months**

MAXIMUM FUNDING

€200,000

that can be jointly requested by Malta-based partner/s per project

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

21 December 2026

23:59 CET

XJENZA MALTA SUBMISSION EMAIL

international.xjenzamalta@gov.mt

Call Snapshot

PROJECT CONSORTIA

Malta
At least one eligible legal entity operating in Malta

China
At least one legal entity operating in China

N.B. The Malta-based applicants in the consortium must include **at least one private entity**

SUPPORTED TRLS

TRL 1–5

RESEARCH AREAS

01

SMART Manufacturing

- Additive Manufacturing
- Flexible Automation

02

Renewable Energy and Storage

03

Resource Efficiency and Valorization

- Marine Resource
- Turning Waste into Resource

Project Consortium

01

One PI per country

Each collaborating side must have one Principal Investigator/Lead Partner representing the consortium for that country

02

PI submits the application

The PI of each country submits the Application Form to their respective Managing Authority

03

More than one proposal

If several proposals with the same PI are selected, the PI may be asked to choose one, unless alternative arrangements are agreed with the Managing Authority

Eligibility Criteria: Chinese Universities under MIIT Supervision

01

ELIGIBILITY

Not eligible

Chinese public universities administered or supervised by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) **are not eligible**.

02

SCOPE

Any role

The exclusion covers **any role**, whether as a project partner or in any other capacity. If a proposal includes an MIIT-supervised university, **the whole proposal is ineligible**.

03

RESPONSIBILITY

Ensure compliance

Malta-based applicants must ensure compliance **at application and throughout the project**.

Eligible Entities

Eligible Entities must be registered in Malta or must have an operating base in Malta

- Limited Liability Companies
- Partnerships
- Non-profit Making Organisations
- Voluntary Organisations
- Professional Bodies
- Cooperatives
- Public Entities
- Research & Knowledge-Dissemination Organisations

Funding Modalities

Funding depends on the nature of the eligible entity

Non-Economic Entities

NON-STATE AID

100% of requested funding

Public entities and public research and knowledge-dissemination organisations not carrying out economic activities

Economic Entities

STATE AID

Two funding frameworks:

De Minimis
up to **75%**

GBER
up to **60%**

Undertakings carrying out economic activities

Aid Intensity - Composition

Economic entity	de minimis*	GBER
Requested funding	Up to 75%	Up to 60%
Own contribution	Remainder % (not in-kind)	Remainder % (not in-kind)

*Capping of **€ 300,000 over 3 years**

Table below showing the Aid Intensity permutations under General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)

Aid Intensity	Undertaking Size		Extra funding for projects prioritising Effective Collaboration &/or Wide Dissemination
25%	Small	+ 20%	+ 15%
	Medium	+ 10%	
	Large	+ 0%	

Regulation B – GBER Specific Considerations

ANNOUNCEMENT

GBER updates

01

VALIDITY

31 December 2026

The current GBER regulation applies until **31 December 2026**

02

DOCUMENTS

Possible re-submission

Applicants under GBER may be **requested to re-submit some documents**

03

SUPPORT

We are here to help

Xjenza Malta will **assist and advise** accordingly

Eligible Costs

01
Personnel

02
Specialised Equipment and Consumables

03
Subcontracting

04
Costs of IP and Knowledge Transfer Activities

05
Travel and Subsistence

06
Overheads and Other Operating Expenses

Personnel Costs

APPLIES TO
non-economic, de minimis and GBER

Up to 10%
of total project value for project management

1,720 hours
maximum per person per year

ROLE IN PROJECT	2027	2028	2029	LIMIT PER PROJECT
Management or equivalent	€63.82 /hour	€67.01 /hour	€70.36 /hour	Max 2 per project
Senior Researcher or equivalent	€44.98 /hour	€47.23 /hour	€49.59 /hour	Max 2 per project
Researcher or equivalent	€32.22 /hour	€33.83 /hour	€35.52 /hour	No limit
Operational, technician, research support assistant or equivalent	€17.67 /hour	€18.55 /hour	€19.48 /hour	No limit

Maximum eligible hourly rates

Equipment and Consumables

Non-Economic / De Minimis

Instruments & specialised equipment
Purchase or lease, including software

Research consumables
Of total project value

max 30%

GBER

Equipment lifetime
Eligible only when it matches the project lifetime

Depreciation costs
Of specialised equipment, for the extent and period used in the project, verified by a certified public accountant

Research consumables
Of total project value

max 30%

IN THE APPLICATION FORM

Specify and justify your equipment

Items over €15,000
Provide specifications and justification for planned project use, in relation to performance characteristics (recommended)

Specialised laptop or PC
Specify its usage and specifications

Travel and Subsistence

Non-Economic / De Minimis

FLIGHTS & TRANSPORT
Economy
flights and the most economical public transport solutions

PER DIEMS
14 days
maximum, consecutive

CONSORTIUM MEETINGS
2 people
maximum per meeting, within the project period

INT. CONFERENCES
2 people
maximum per event; max. one international conference every 6 months

OTHER PROJECT MEETINGS
2 people
maximum per occasion; to be discussed and agreed with the Managing Authority

GBER

NOT ELIGIBLE

Travel costs

Subcontracting

APPLIES TO *non-economic, de minimis and GBER projects*



ALLOWED

up to **25%**

of the project value



REQUIREMENT

Must follow the necessary procurement procedures

IP and Knowledge Transfer

APPLIES TO *non-economic, de minimis and GBER projects*



Knowledge transfer activities

Costs of knowledge transfer activities from **outside sources**



Patents

Bought or licensed from **outside sources** at **arm's length conditions**



Discuss the proposed activities with the **Call Manager** at application stage

Overheads & Other Operating Expenses

APPLIES TO *non-economic, de minimis and GBER projects*

FLAT RATE

20%

of direct eligible costs claimed

WHAT THIS COVERS

Other operating expenses incurred directly as a result of the project

Should not be listed as separate line items in the budget

Ineligible Costs

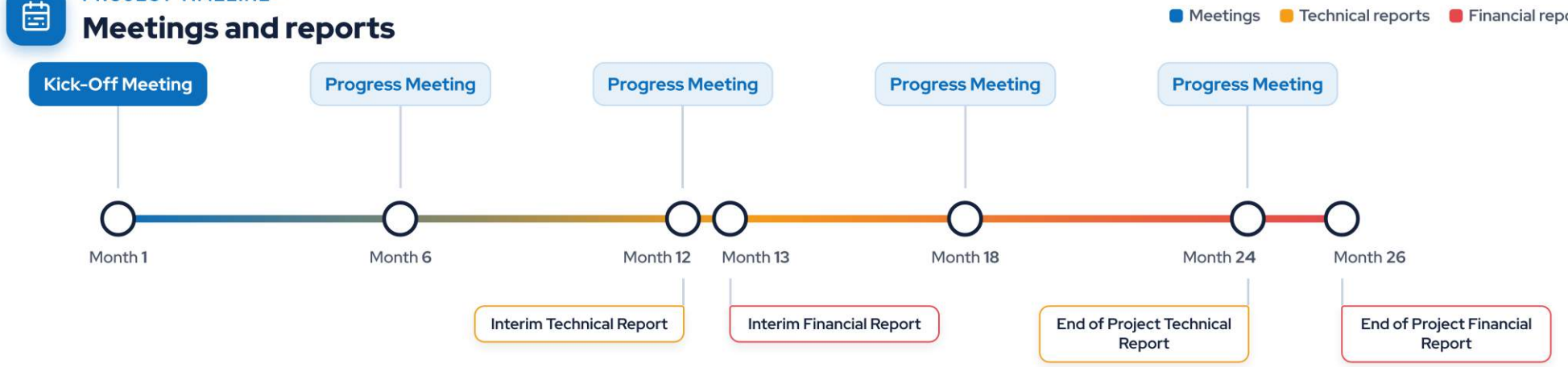
- ✖ Loan-related expenses, interest and similar charges
- ✖ Expenses recoverable through other funding mechanisms
- ✖ Repurchase of equipment already funded elsewhere
- ✖ Equipment or services purchased or leased from partners or subsidiaries
- ✖ Standard office equipment
- ✖ Personnel hours for travelling
- ✖ Any costs not explicitly listed as eligible in the National Rules

Project Timelines and Disbursements

All partners shall decide on a **common Start Date** for the project

PROJECT TIMELINE*

Meetings and reports



** The project timeline may vary according to the project duration.*

PAYMENTS

Disbursements

50% Pre-financing	**30%** Interim financing	**20%** Retention fund

Submission Documents

01

Application Form

SINO-MALTA Fund 2026 Joint Call for R&I Proposals

02

Relevant Annexes

Budget Breakdown Form (one per consortium member) and State Aid Declarations

03

Cooperation and IP Agreement

Agreement between partners on cooperation and intellectual property

Submission Documents

ATTACHMENTS	Public entities	Public RKDOs	de minimis	GBER
de minimis Form			✓	
Enterprise Size Declaration Form & Undertaking in Difficulty				✓
Declarations for Augmented Aid Intensity				✓
Audited financial statements (last 3 years) & Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A)*			✓	✓
Public entities (not RKDOs)	✓			
Public RKDOs		✓		
Detailed Budget Breakdown Form	✓	✓	✓	✓

Each **Malta-based partner** in a local consortium must submit the Annexes

Submitted by the Principal Investigator or directly by partners within a local consortium

*** Start-ups** without these documents: provide financial projections for 3 years, signed by an auditor

Submission Documents - Attachments

01

Complete the documents

Available on the Xjenza Malta website

02

Review with partners

Together with local and China-based partners

03

Sign the documents

By the legal representative

04

Submit the final version

To Xjenza Malta by the deadline



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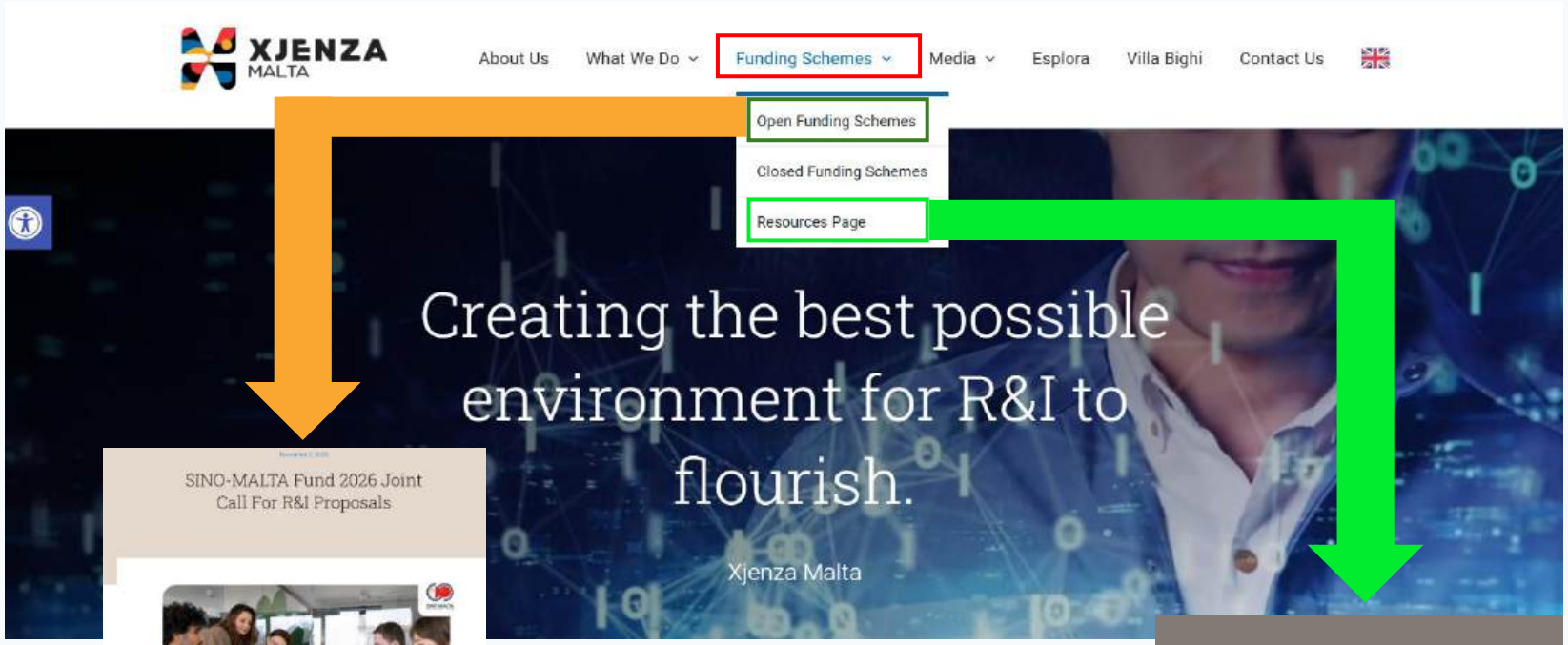
international.xjenzamalta@gov.mt

CC nathan.aquilina.3@gov.mt

EMAIL SUBJECT FOR SUBMISSIONS AND QUERIES

SINO-MALTA Final 2026-ACRONYM-SUBMISSION/QUERY

Submission & Reference Documents



- National Rules for Participation
- Application Form

Resources Page

- Relevant Annexes can be found here

Evaluation Process

01

Initial check

All applications undergo an **administrative eligibility check** by both Managing Authorities

02

Independent evaluation

Eligible proposals are evaluated independently by the Maltese and Chinese sides

03

National-level criteria

- Scientific/Technological Excellence
- Methodology
- Project Management
- Importance of International Collaboration
- Impact

04

Due diligence

The Managing Authority may conduct **due diligence** through its contractors and request additional assurances or documentation at its discretion

05

Grant agreement preparation

Successful applicants work with Xjenza Malta to **prepare and sign the Grant Agreement** before the project starts

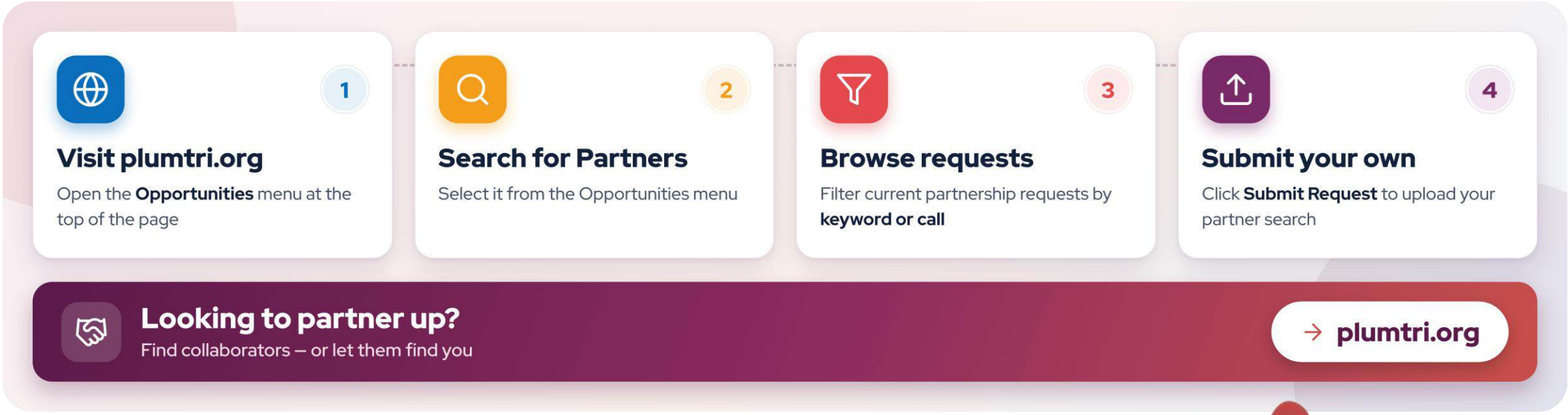
MINOR DEVIATION

Corrected by Xjenza Malta; applicant can accept or decline the amendment

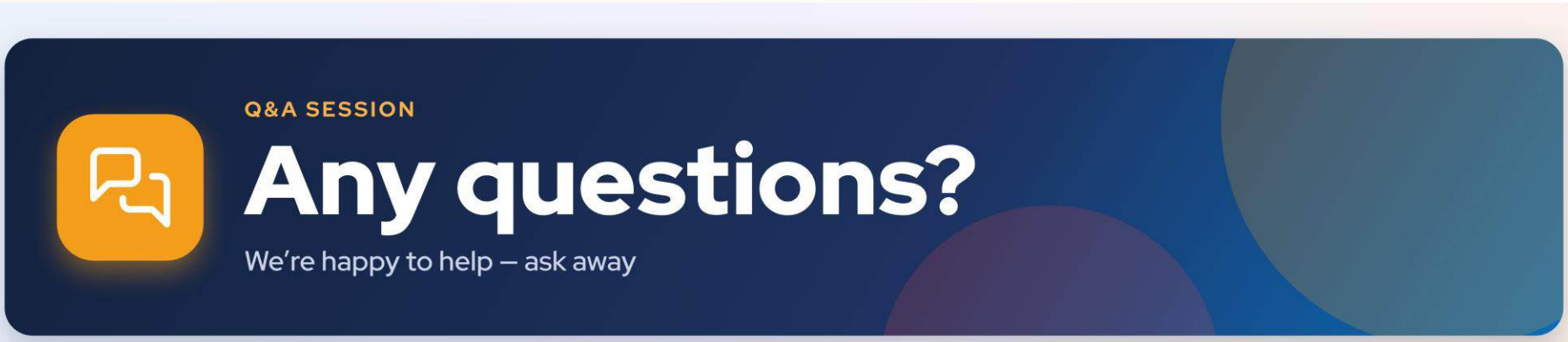
MAJOR DEVIATION

Identified by Xjenza Malta; applicant may be invited to fix it, or the application is immediately rejected

Plumtri – Partner Search Tool



plumtri


Q&A SESSION
Any questions?
We're happy to help – ask away

Contact u

CONTACT

xjenzamalta.mt

international.xjenzamalta@gov.mt

Cc: nathan.aquilina.3@gov.mt

Xjenza Malta
Villa Bighi, Dawret Fra Giovanni Bichi
Kalkara