

EU-WB Policy Dialogue Stakeholder Platform

Malta's Experience in EU Partnerships: Contributions and Added Value

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13th November 2025 @ 15:00 CET



Xjenza Malta

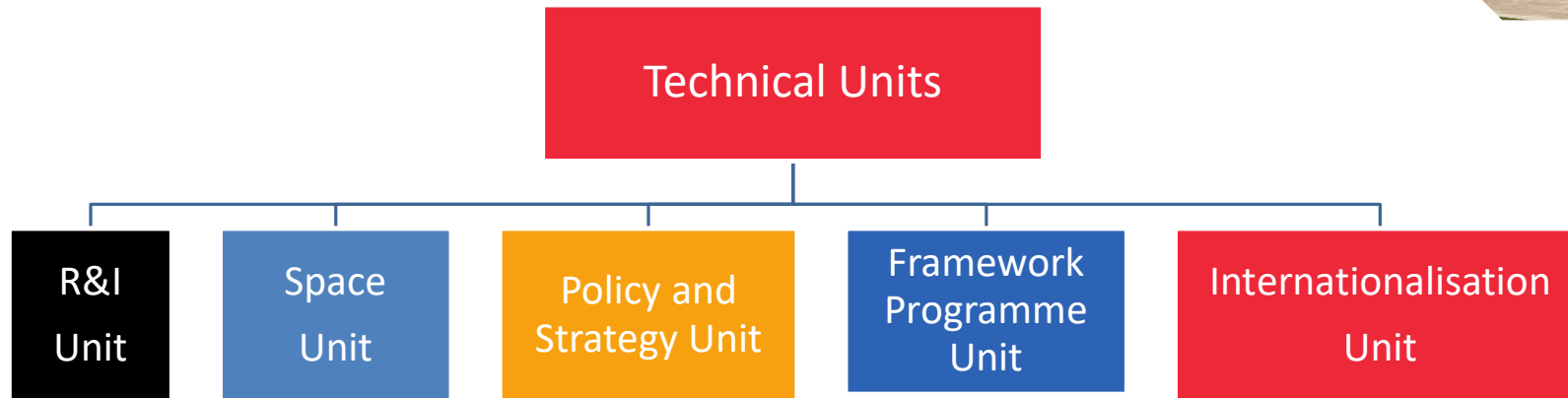


National funding agency, policy development, and implementation support and coordination body in Research, Innovation and Space.

The ever-increasing multi-million portfolio of funding research programmes, has contributed to **strengthen research areas in Malta, in all sectors, including academia and private companies, and to establish new niches, leading to new and innovative tangible products or services.**

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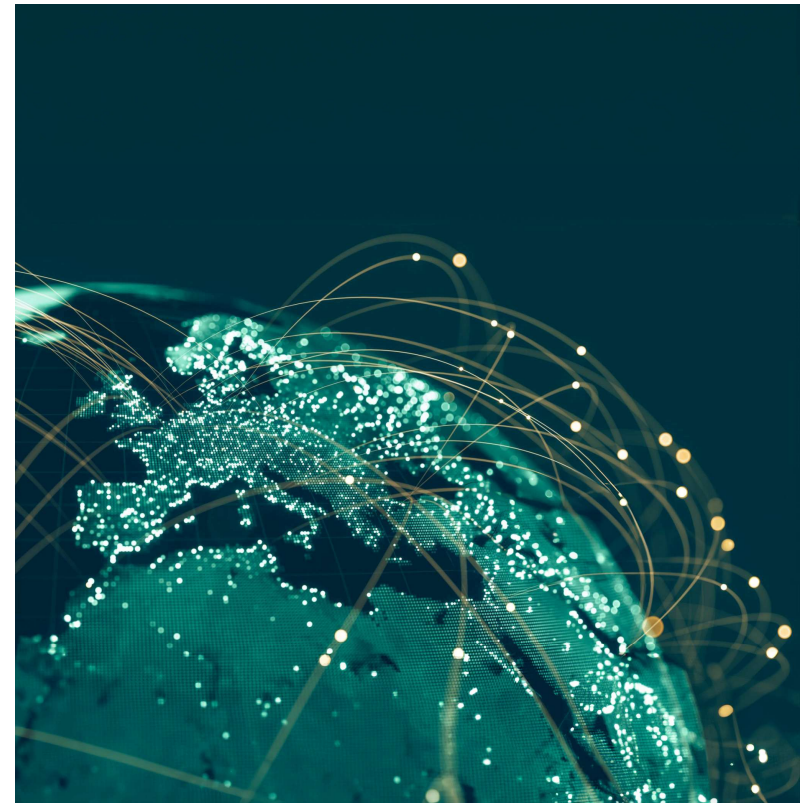
Technical Units



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Internationalisation Unit

- **Follow international trends** in R&I through its representation in international and regional science diplomacy fora
- **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 Unit



- **Budget Commitment 2026: Approx. €7M in local funds**
- Manages various funding schemes supporting networking and capacity-building initiatives, as well as projects across all R&I levels, from basic to applied research (TRL 1-7)
- Project funding requests range from €8,000 to €500,000

Driving Malta through R&I

Key priorities areas for national development



Health and Well-being

Sustainable use of
Resources for
Climate Mitigation
and Adaptation

Smart
Manufacturing

Marine &
Maritime
Technology

Aviation and
Aerospace

Future Digital Tech

Current Portfolio

Bilateral Programmes



Multilateral Programmes



Thematic Areas

	Multilateral								Bilateral			
	A2P €300k	RCH* €500k	BH* €500k	OH AMR €500k	M.ERA- NET €300k	THCSP €500k	SBEP €500k	CETP €500k	PRIMA €500k	SINO- Malta €1.2M	XM - TUBITAK €500k	SPIRE (CNR) €30k
Digital Technologies	✓	(✓)	(✓)	(✓)		✓	✓	(✓)	(✓)	✓	✓	✓
Health and Well being	✓		✓	✓		✓	(✓)			✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Use of Resources for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	✓	(✓)			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Smart Manufacturing	✓				✓			(✓)		✓	✓	✓
Marine and Maritime Technologies	✓	(✓)					✓			✓		✓
Aviation and Aerospace	✓										✓	✓

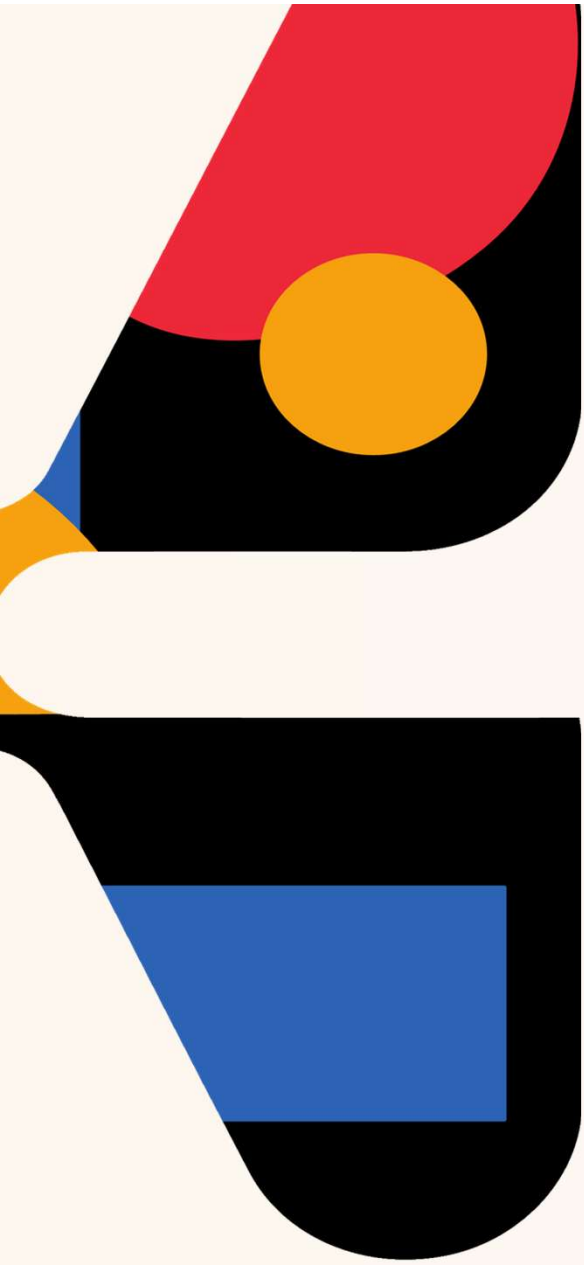
*To be launched for the first time in 2025/2026

Key: ✓ Directly; (✓) Indirectly

Internationalisation FUNDING



The slide depicts the year of the first Call launched



Horizon Europe Partnerships

What are European Partnerships?



Part of Horizon Europe (2021-2027)



EC + national & private partners join forces



Addressing pressing EU challenges:

 **Climate**
 **Innovation**

 **Health**
 **Energy**



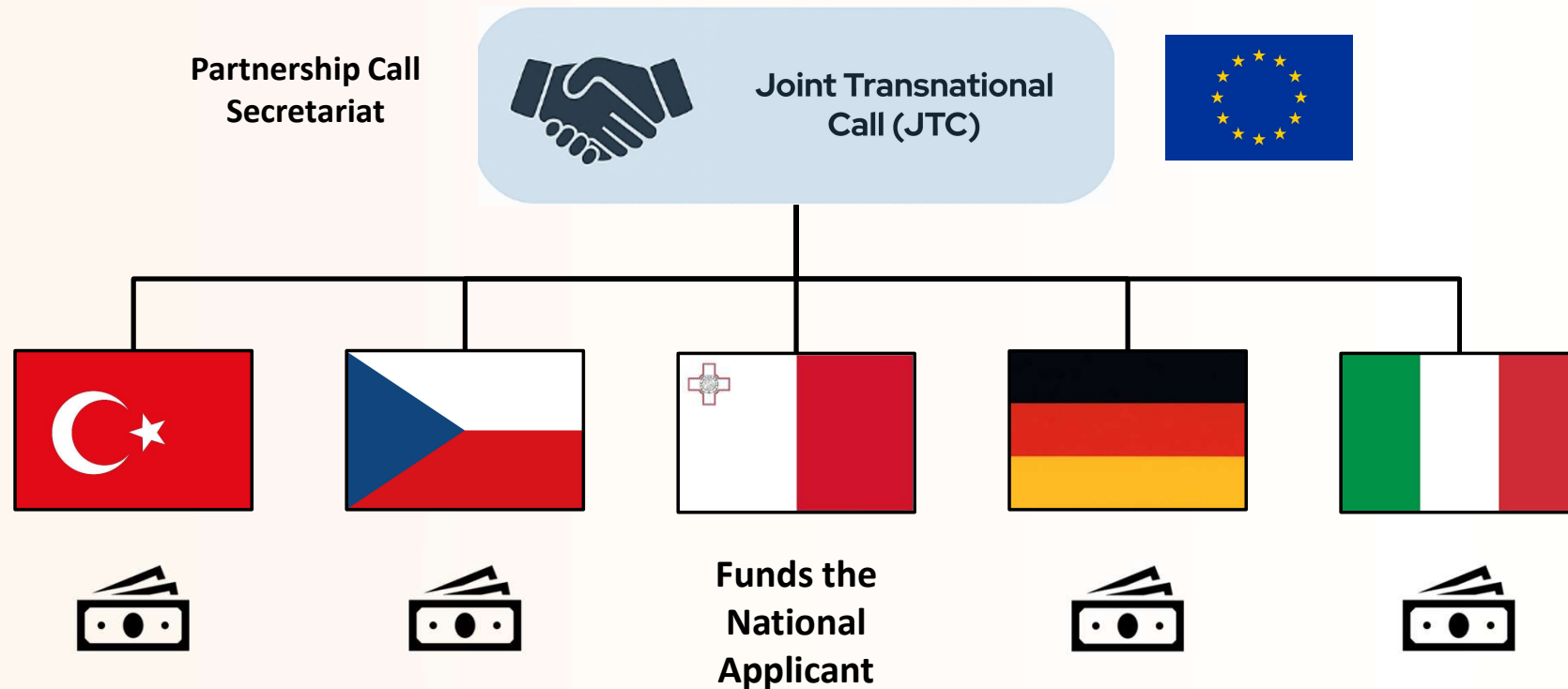
Implemented via Joint Transnational Calls



Co-funded European Partnerships (EPs)

- Based on **grant agreement** between **EC and the consortium of partners**, resulting from a call for proposals in the work programme of Horizon Europe
 - **Budget from Member States** and Associated Countries combined **with co-funding from the EU** (30-50% EC top-up)
 - **Fund transnational R&I projects** through annually launched Joint Transnational Calls (JTCs) and other capacity building activities
 - **EC top-up utilized to cover the part of the EPs management costs and to maximize the number of projects funded**
- 

Joint Transnational Call



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



Joint Transitional Call – requirements and process

- **Minimum 3 partners from at least 3 different participating countries in the JTC (self-funded partners allowed)**
- **One partner must assume the role of Coordinator**
- **Partners must adhere to the respective national rules set by their national funding agencies**
- **National funding agencies serve also as National Contact Points:**
 - Review call texts and documents, support local applicants, perform administrative checks, assist in finding local partners, monitor projects at national level ...

EPs participation - Added Values

Implement national R&I
policies & strategies

Increase agency visibility
& collaborations –
*participation in EPs /
Projects*

Build internal
capacities and experience

Receive financial support
for HR efforts (PMs
allocated)

Receive “just-return” for
awarded projects

Benefit from JTC’s
widening initiative - *boost
participation from
underrepresented
countries*

Example:

Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS)

- 66 partners from 27 countries
- 6 co-funded JTCs (2023-2028) over 7 years
- Planned budget of EUR 305 M over 7 years – EUR 3.5 M from Malta

General vision:

“contribute to the transition towards more sustainable, efficient, resilient, inclusive, innovative and high-quality people-centred health and care systems equally accessible to all people.”

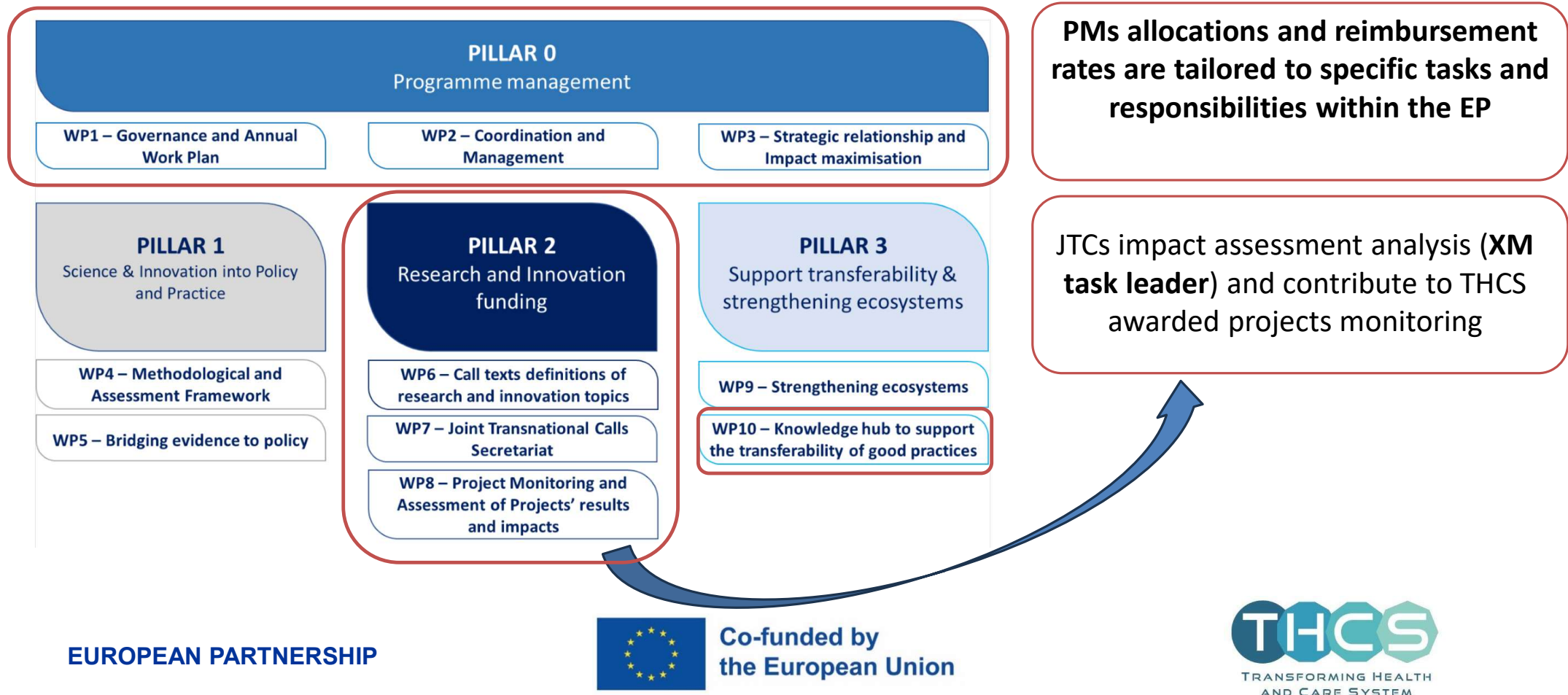
EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



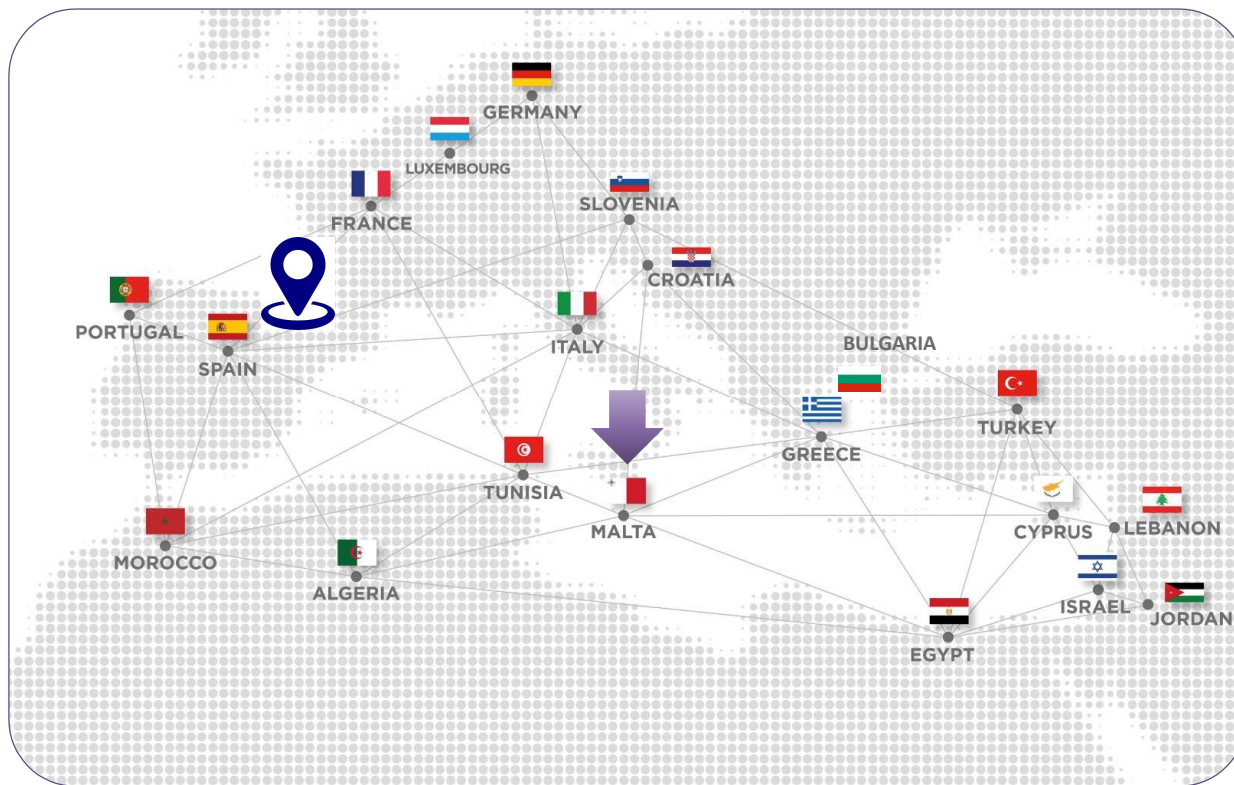
Co-funded by
the European Union



THCS Structure



Example: PRIMA



20 PRIMA Participating States

- ✓ 12 EU MS
- ✓ 3 Associated Countries to HE
- ✓ 5 Third Countries



**700 million EUR
programme**

325 million from EU funds

**374 million Participating States
funds**

PRIMA funding opportunities

	Section 1 Transnational call for proposals	Section 2 Transnational call for proposals	Section 3 Participating States activities
 Call publication	 PRIMA Secretariat	 PRIMA Secretariat	 Participating States
 Proposals evaluation	 PRIMA Secretariat	 PRIMA Secretariat	 Participating States
 Projects funded by	 EU funds	 Participating States	 Participating States
 Project monitored by	 PRIMA Secretariat	  Participating States	 Participating States
 Rules for participation	 Horizon Europe	 Participating States	 Participating States

Xjenza Malta Section 3 activities



XJENZA MALTA
TÜBİTAK 2025
Joint Call

**PILLAR 1
PRIMA THEMATIC
AREAS**
MANAGEMENT OF WATER
FARMING SYSTEMS
AGRO-FOOD VALUE CHAIN

**PILLAR 2
SHARED NATIONAL
PRIORITY AREAS**
AVIATION
SMART MANUFACTURING
HEALTH

**CROSS-CUTTING THEME:
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
EUROPEAN UNION
PRIMA
TÜBİTAK



PRIMA
PROGRAMME FOR RURAL INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADAPTATION

**PRIMA Training
and Mobility
Award 2025**

CALL NOW OPEN

Sustainable
Farming
Systems | Agro-food
Value Chain | Water
Management | WEFE
NEXUS

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
EUROPEAN UNION
XJENZA
MALTA



PRIMA
PROGRAMME FOR RURAL INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADAPTATION

**PRIMA
Networking
Support Scheme
(NET2PRIMA) 2025**

CALL NOW OPEN

GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
EUROPEAN UNION
XJENZA
MALTA



PRIMA Collaborate Event 2024

Learn how to prepare a successful application and network with potential consortium partners, encourage collaboration among researchers in Malta and abroad.

Examples: Ongoing Awarded Projects

NOVISHPAK

PRIMA Section 2 - 2023

MT project amount: € 300,000

Countries involved: Malta, Greece, Algeria, Germany, France, Morocco, Tunisia

Develop biodegradable, antimicrobial packaging and edible coatings from seaweed and fish waste to extend the shelf life of Mediterranean fish fillets.



ISOLUME

JPI Oceans - Consequences of Changing Marine Lightscares

MT project amount: € 200,000

Countries involved: Malta, Ireland, Germany, UK, Norway, Poland

How marine light conditions have changed (light pollution and coastal darkening) to understand effects on marine ecosystems.



Examples: Ongoing Awarded Projects

WASTE2TASTE

SBEP 2023

MT project amount: €269,809

Countries involved: Malta, Italy, Norway, Türkiye, Spain

Turn fishery by-products and invasive species into high-value food ingredients using green processes, creating marketable products while reducing marine waste.



TENSYGRID

CETP 2023

MT project amount: €252,243

Countries involved: Malta, Germany, Spain

Developing smarter, faster tools to help electricity grids safely run on 100% renewable energy by improving analyse and manage stability in systems dominated by modern power electronics.





Access2Partnerships Scheme

PILLAR II - Global challenges & European industrial competitiveness

PILLAR III - Innovative Europe

CLUSTER 1: Health	CLUSTER 2: Culture, Creativity, Inclusive Societies	CLUSTER 4: Digital, Industry & Space	CLUSTER 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility	CLUSTER 6: Food, Bio-economy, Agriculture, Env...	EUROPEAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS
Innovative Health Initiative	Resilient Cultural Heritage*	Chips (formerly KDT)	Clean Hydrogen	Circular Bio-based Europe	Innovative SMEs *
Global Health Partnership	Social Transformations and Resilience*	Smart Networks & Services	Clean Aviation	R&I in the Mediterranean Area (Art. 185)	
Transformation of health systems		High Performance Computing	Single European Sky ATM Research 3	Biodiversa+	EIT
Chemicals risk assessment		European Metrology (Art. 185)	Europe's Rail	Climate Neutral, Sustainable & Productive Blue Economy	InnoEnergy
ERA for Health		AI-Data-Robotics	Connected and Automated Mobility	Water4All *	Climate
Rare diseases		Photonics	Batt4EU	Animal Health & Welfare	Digital
One-Health Anti Microbial Resistance		Made in Europe	Zero-emission waterborne transport	Accelerating Farming Systems Transitions	Food
Personalised Medicine		Clean steel – low-carbon steelmaking	Zero-emission road transport	Agriculture of Data	Health
Pandemic Preparedness		Processes4Planet	Built4People	Safe and Sustainable Food System	Raw Materials
Brain Health*		Global competitive space systems	Solar Photovoltaics*	Forests and Forestry for sustainable Future*	Manufacturing
		Innovative Materials for EU*	Clean Energy Transition		Urban Mobility
		Virtual Worlds*	Driving Urban Transitions		Cultural and Creative Industries
		Textiles of the Future*			Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystem*
		Raw Materials for the Green and Digital Transition*			

■ Institutionalised partnerships (Art 185/7)

■ EIT KICs

■ Co-programmed

■ Co-funded

* Under preparation

CROSS-PILLARS I AND II

European Open Science Cloud

What is the A2P Scheme?



Participate in Horizon Europe Partnerships Calls where Malta is not an official funding partner.



Provide up to €300,000 per project to Malta-based entities to participate as self-funded partners.



Strengthen international collaborations and enhance research and innovation capabilities.



Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet specific requirements set by the relevant Horizon Europe Partnership.

1. Call Text Compliance

Each Horizon Europe Partnership publishes its own **Call Text**.
This includes:

- ✓ **Research Priorities**
- ✓ **Objectives**
- ✓ **Targeted impact**

Eligibility Criteria

2. Consortium Rules

Self-funded partners:

- **Cannot act as project coordinators**
- **Do not count** towards the **minimum required number** of consortium partners.
- **Bring own funds. In case of successful A2P Scheme application, funds will be secured via XM**
- Follow A2P Scheme **National Rules for Participation**

Application Process

1

Submit application and relevant annexes *via* email **at least 15 working days before** the JTC pre-proposal deadline.

2

Following **admin check and approval** by Xjenza Malta, a **Letter of Intent** is issued.

3

Additional documents will need to be submitted at full-proposal stage.

Cooperation with EPs

Cooperation with Xjenza Malta

This year, the DUT Partnership is cooperating with the Funding Agency Xjenza Malta – as part of their A2P scheme, Malta-based researchers can join the DUT Call as cooperation partners and be reimbursed up to €300,000 for their participation in a successfully funded DUT project, provided that also the national application is successful. More information can be found [here](#).



Cooperation With Xjenza Malta

For the 2026 Research, Innovation and Technology Call (RITC), EP PerMed is cooperating with the [Maltese funding agency Xjenza Malta](#). Through the *Access2Partnerships (A2P) Scheme*, Malta-based researchers can participate in the EP PerMed Call as partners on own funds and may be eligible for up to **€300,000 per project** to support their involvement in a successfully selected proposal, subject to a successful national application to Xjenza Malta.

Applicants need to submit a short administrative form to Xjenza Malta at least **15 working days before the pre-proposal submission deadline**.

[More information can be found here.](#)



- A maximum of 2 collaborators (self-funded partner not applying for funding).
The Funding Agency Xjenza [Malta](#) may support the involvement of Maltese collaborators



Any Questions?





CONTACT

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