



Expression of Interest

1. Introduction

Arts Council Malta (ACM) is issuing an Expression of Interest (EOI) for prospective Maltese cultural and creative organisations planning to submit a project proposal for the current open Call for a **Small-Scale Cooperation Project**, as part of the **Creative Europe Programme 2021-2027**.

Through this EOI, ACM shall be supporting Maltese cultural and creative organisations by endorsing their Cooperation Project and committing to cover the co-funding intensity, or part of, up to a maximum of €15,000, and subject to the conditions laid out under Section 6.

In view of this, organisations are being invited to submit a **Project Description** of their Creative Europe Small-Scale Cooperation Project, identifying:

- the objectives of the project;
- the partners in the project, and their respective role;
- how the project is relevant towards ACM's Vision, Mission and Goals;
- the forecast total project budget;
- the co-funding being requested by the Maltese arts organisation, up to a maximum of €15,000. It is important to note that ACM does not guarantee full co-funding and does not expect to be the sole source of the co-funding.

It is recommended that prior to submitting a Project Description, prospective applicants contact the Creative Europe Desk Malta to assist them to register in the Participant Register on the European Commission's portal and be validated by the Central Validation Service.

2. Strategic Objectives

The objectives of this EOI are in line with Arts Council Malta's Strategy 2025, which aim to:

- Enable strategic connections, networks and creative partnerships with other European/international creatives and cultural organisations.
- Strengthen the role, performance and institutional capacity of the local workforce and that of PCOs to provide enhanced service delivery.
- Build bridges and synergies with other policy areas and cross-cutting themes, such as sustainability, the environment, digitalisation, cultural rights and diversity.
- Contribute to the creative and cultural sectors' sustainable economic development, employment and innovation dimensions.



3. Definitions

- **Creative Europe**
Creative Europe is the European Commission's flagship programme to support the culture and audio-visual sectors.
- **Creative Europe programme 2021-2027**
The Creative Europe programme 2021-2027 invests in actions that reinforce cultural diversity and respond to the needs and challenges of the cultural and creative sectors. The main objectives of the programme are to (i) safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage; and (ii) increase the competitiveness and economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors. For more information visit <https://culture.ec.europa.eu>.
- **Cooperation projects**
European Cooperation Projects are transnational projects involving cultural and creative organisations from different countries taking part in the programme. They give cultural organisations of all sizes the possibility to co-produce, cooperate, experiment, innovate, be mobile and learn from each other.
- **European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)**
The EACEA manages funding for education, culture, audiovisual, sport, citizenship and volunteering. For the 2021-2027 period, EACEA manages key parts of the Creative Europe programme, amongst others, on behalf of the European Commission.
- **Creative Europe Desk**
Creative Europe Desks are in place in every participating country of the programme, providing assistance related to the programme and help cooperating with organisations in other countries.
- **Legal Entity**
A 'legal entity' is any natural or legal person created and recognised as such under national law or international law. It must have a legal personality and, acting in its own name, be able to exercise rights and be subject to obligations. A legal entity may be categorised in more than one legal status, such as: private entity, public body, non-profit or for-profit organisation, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME), non-governmental organisation (NGO), civil society organisation, research organisation, international organisation, secondary or higher education establishment.

4. Eligibility

Applications will first be screened in terms of eligibility. Ineligible applications in terms of the points below shall not be processed further and shall not undergo evaluation.



4.1 Who can apply?

Legal entities and self-employed persons (i.e., sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person) who:

- have a registered address in the Maltese islands;
- are planning to form part in a Consortium as a **beneficiary** (including being a **coordinator**) and are eligible to submit a proposal for funding to Creative Europe for a small-scale cooperation project;
- require an endorsement letter by ACM to show evidence of co-funding, demonstrating their sufficient financial capacity.

4.2 Who cannot apply?

- Individual persons;
- Legal entities which do not have a registered address in the Maltese islands;
- Legal entities not eligible to apply for Creative Europe's Call for proposals for European Cooperation projects;
- Legal entities or self-employed persons who intend to join a Consortium as Associate Partners, Affiliated Entities, subcontractors or as third parties giving in-kind contributions;
- Government entities, including Public Cultural Organisations, with a line vote.

5. Timeframes

- Deadline to submit EOI: 06th February 2023 at 12:00 (noon).
- ACM Letter of Endorsement issued by: 15th February 2023.
- Creative Europe deadline for Call for Small-Scale Cooperation Projects: 23rd February 2023.

6. Endorsement process

Eligible applications will be assessed internally by representatives from ACM, and an **Endorsement Letter** will be issued if the evaluation board deems the project to be of relevance towards ACM's Vision, Mission and Goals, as follows:

- **Vision:** We want the arts to be at the heart of Malta's future.
- **Mission:** Driven by our commitment to cultural rights, we invest in the arts to strengthen Malta's creative and cultural ecology.
- **Goals:**
 1. To invest in and foster diverse artistic and cultural expression.
 2. To support and promote the conditions in which Malta's cultural and creative sectors can flourish.
 3. To advocate and provide for community-led opportunities to engage in arts and culture.



4. To strengthen Malta's international cultural relations to continue developing international artistic exchanges and collaborations.
5. To nurture cross-sectoral collaborations that contribute to Malta's sustainable development.
6. To enable cultural partners, including Public Cultural Organisations, to build and strengthen organisational capacity.

The Endorsement Letter does not guarantee the awarding of the co-funding by ACM, and the financial contribution shall be subject to:

- the successful awarding of funding by Creative Europe for the implementation of a small-scale cooperation project, in which the Maltese organisation is a beneficiary;
- the availability of Government funds to cover the successfully awarded applications for co-funding;
- the project's relevance towards the ACM's Vision, Mission and Goals, as established in its Strategy 2025 document.

In the event that the total amount requested exceeds ACM's session budget, the co-funding will be awarded according to the ranking order published by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

7. Submissions

Submissions may be carried out by sending an email to applyforfunds@artscouncil.mt from the date of issue of this EOI until 12:00 (noon) of the deadline. It is essential that in the same email all additional supporting documentation are included, as required in the EOI. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

8. Outcome

Once the proposal for a small-scale Cooperation Project is successfully awarded funding by the EACEA, the Maltese beneficiary will be required to submit an application for the co-funding through a specific Call for Applications that will be issued by ACM. Applicants will be required to submit the following documentation:

- A copy of the signed Grant Agreement with the EACEA, confirming the agencies commitment for funding;
- A copy of EACEA's decision letter, which includes the EACEA's assessment of the proposal;
- A copy of the submitted Creative Europe application form;
- A copy of the submitted Creative Europe detailed budget form;



- Copies of any correspondence or MOUs outlining details of collaborations that confirm other commitments of income towards the proposal that were not listed in the Creative Europe budget form.

9. Clarifications and additional information

Any requests for clarifications on this EOI are to be sent by email to fundinfo@artscouncil.mt. You are also welcome to call us on 2334 7230, on weekdays, between 09:00 and 16:00.

Any requests for clarifications related to the Creative Europe Programme 2021-2027 or the Call for Cooperation Projects need to be made with representatives of the Creative Europe Desk Malta, by sending an email to info.culturedesk@ewropakreattiva.mt.

EOI issued on 20th January 2023