

KulturaTV

Guidelines and Regulations 2023



ISSUED: JUNE 2023

ALLOCATIONS

SESSION BUDGET	MAXIMUM ELIGIBLE AMOUNT PER PROJECT
EUR 240,000	<p>Drama €70,000 or 60% of eligible costs*</p> <p>Creative TV documentaries €40,000 or 60% of eligible costs*</p> <p>Culture programmes €25,000 or 60% of eligible cost*</p> <p>*whichever is the lowest</p>

CO-FUNDING	DISBURSEMENT
The fund may cover up to 60% of total project costs	<p>70% upon signing of grant agreement</p> <p>30% following approval of final report</p>

TIMEFRAMES

DEADLINE	RESULTS	ELIGIBLE TIMEFRAME
24th July 2023	18th September 2023	19th September 2023 – 19th September 2026 (Broadcasts starting from October 2024)

1. Introduction

The aim of the KulturaTV Fund is to incentivise the development of difficult audio-visual productions having a cultural and creative content on private broadcasting stations in order to enhance the quality of audio-visual productions in Malta on arts and culture. The scheme will be limited to the following productions that meet the eligible cultural criteria: drama, creative TV documentaries, and culture programmes. Through this funding scheme, Arts Council Malta aims to support the creation of innovative and culturally significant storytelling relevant to contemporary media audiences, with a specific focus on the creative sector in the Maltese islands.

The scheme targets eligible productions on private television stations that require investment to develop works that often lack access to private funding. The scheme provides an incentive to independent audio-visual companies and private stations to produce quality-driven cultural audio-visual productions and will include mentoring by a designated foreign mentor appointed by Arts Council Malta

The scheme aims to support ambitious audio-visual creations and to encourage the production of original drama, innovative creative documentaries, and culture programmes that include in-depth coverage of the culture and arts scene and behind-the-scenes interviews. Due consideration will be given to proposals focusing on relevant developments in the national cultural landscape, such as public cultural organisations, national festivals, and Arts Council Malta partners.

2. Definitions

Applicant:

- An applicant may be a private station licenced by the Malta Broadcasting Authority or an audio-visual company registered with the Malta Business Registry, in accordance with the Companies Act (CAP 386 of the Laws of Malta) requirements in the case of a company or a partnership, and in accordance with the Civil Code (CAP 16 of the Laws of Malta) in the case of a foundation and an organisation/association. Applicants cannot be employees of Arts Council Malta or involved in the management of the *KulturaTV*. The applicant's NACE code must be one of the following:
 - J59.11 Motion picture, video, and TV programme production activities
 - J59.12 Motion picture, video, and TV programme post-production activities
 - J59.13 Motion picture, video, and TV programme distribution activities
 - J60.20 Television programming and broadcasting activities

Application:

- An application is a submission, inclusive of all mandatory documents and any annexes to the application form made by an eligible applicant.

Audio-visual company:

- A registered company whose main activity is audio-visual and film production.

Beneficiary:

- The beneficiary is the recipient of the grant. The beneficiary is responsible for the implementation of the proposal supported by the scheme. The beneficiary of the grant may not be changed throughout the duration of the funded project and until the final disbursement is issued. The disbursement of the grant may only be issued on behalf of the beneficiary. The beneficiary is responsible to ensure that any VAT invoices are issued on behalf of the beneficiary and include the beneficiary's VAT information.

Broadcast:

- The initial transmission of television programmes or of any audio-visual material intended for reception by the public or any electronic communications network and any electronic communications service as defined in Article 2 of the Electronic Communications (Regulation) Act (CAP 399 of the Laws of Malta), but does not include retransmissions and communication services providing items of information or other messages on individual demand, such as telecopying, electronic data banks, and other similar services.

Broadcaster:

- Any person providing television broadcasting services as provided for in the Broadcasting Act (CAP 350 of the Laws of Malta), and also includes any person, body, or authority providing such services under licence from or under arrangements with the government. 'Television broadcasting service' means all the items within a single television service provided by a given broadcaster.

Culture programmes:

- Original audio-visual works that promote culture and the arts, presenting specific or various aspects of cultural and artistic works/projects. These include discussion programmes on culture and creativity and behind-the-scenes interviews.

Cultural audio-visual production:

- A drama, creative TV documentary, or a culture programme. Applications will undergo verification against the predetermined list of cultural criteria as set out in Criterion 4.1 of these guidelines.

Difficult audio-visual production:

- A cultural audio-visual production the original version of which is in the Maltese language and that has a low budget or is otherwise commercially difficult.

Documentary:

- A production that takes a real-life subject as its starting point but requires substantial original writing and sets out an author's and/or director's point of view from a historical and/or contemporary perspective. A documentary should contain a certain "timeless" element and should contain significant original filming and does not merely convey information.

Drama:

- Original, fictional audio-visual works that can be a one-off, two-part, three-part drama or a series intended primarily for the purposes of television, as well as digital platform exploitation

Eligibility:

- Applications will first be screened in terms of technical and artistic eligibility by the fund administrators and managers. Proposals which are not considered eligible in terms of the set criteria will not be processed further and will not undergo evaluation.

Evaluation:

- Applications deemed compliant and eligible are evaluated against the criteria established in these guidelines by the appointed evaluators.

Evaluators:

- Arts Council Malta appoints an evaluation team for each call under the scheme. The Arts Council may appoint both local and foreign professionals in the sector of culture and the arts.

Individual:

- Individuals applying for a grant must be Maltese citizens, or be in possession of a Malta residence permit, or of a Maltese citizenship certificate, or of a Maltese passport.

Language:

- The original language of the audio-visual work needs to be Maltese.

Management and administration:

- Arts Council Malta is responsible for the management of this scheme. All official correspondence, including the submission of applications, must be sent to the address indicated in these guidelines.

Mandatory documentation:

- Any document(s) needed to support your proposal and aiding the evaluation of your project (e.g. track records, portfolios, artistic CVs, official correspondence confirming rental of space, permits, or other)

Maximum Funding:

- There is a maximum funding allocation per project, with ceiling amount of €70,000 in the case of **drama**, €40,000 in the case of **creative TV documentaries**, and €25,000 in the case of **culture programmes**. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the project

Mood Board:

- A visual tool intended to communicate the filmic concepts of a particular project. It is a well-thought-out and planned arrangement of images, materials, pieces of text, etc. that is intended to evoke or project a particular style or tonality.

Producer:

- The person responsible for finding and launching an audio-visual project. This includes being responsible for the creative, financial, and managerial aspects of the making of a film or TV production. A producer oversees all elements of pre-production, production, and post-production, right up to release.

Public Cultural Organisations:

- Public cultural entities falling under the remit of Arts Council Malta which include Teatru Manoel, Mediterranean Conference Centre, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, Fondazzjoni

Kreattività, Pjazza Teatru Rjal, Valletta Cultural Agency, Malta International Contemporary Arts Space, Festivals Malta, Teatru Malta, Kor Malta, and ŻfinMalta.

Start of works:

- Means the earlier of either the start of construction works relating to the investment or the first legally binding commitment to order equipment or any other commitment that makes the investment irreversible. Buying land and preparatory works such as obtaining permits and conducting feasibility studies are not considered start of works.

Treatment:

- A prose-based summary of a screenplay. It is the “novelized” version, usually between 10-15 pages long.

Undertaking:

- An undertaking is defined as an entity engaged in an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU (i.e. any activity consisting in offering goods and services on a market), regardless of its legal status and the way in which it is financed. The classification of a particular entity as an undertaking depends entirely on the nature of its activities. The application of the state aid rules does not depend on whether the entity is set up to generate profits. Non-profit entities can also offer goods and services on a market. Where this is not the case, non-profit entities remain outside the scope of state aid. Furthermore, the classification of an entity as an undertaking is always relative to a specific activity. An entity that carries out both economic and non-economic activities is to be regarded as an undertaking only with regard to the former.

Undertaking in difficulty:

- Undertaking in difficulty means an undertaking in respect of which at least one of the following circumstances occurs:
 - In the case of a limited liability company (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years or, for the purposes of eligibility for risk finance aid, an SME within 7 years from its first commercial sale that qualifies for risk finance investments following due diligence by the selected financial intermediary), where more than half of its subscribed share capital has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. This is the case when deduction of accumulated losses from reserves (and all other elements generally considered as part of the own funds of the company) leads to a negative cumulative amount that exceeds half of the subscribed share capital. For the purposes of this provision, "limited liability company" refers in particular to the types of company mentioned in Annex I of Directive 2013/34/EU and "share capital" includes, where relevant, any share premium.
 - In the case of a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years or, for the purposes of eligibility for risk finance aid, an SME within 7 years from its first commercial sale that qualifies for risk finance investments following due diligence by the selected financial intermediary), where more than half of its capital as shown in the company accounts has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. For the purposes of this provision, "a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company" refers in particular to the types of company mentioned in Annex II of Directive 2013/34/EU.

- Where the undertaking is subject to collective insolvency proceedings or fulfils the criteria under its domestic law for being placed in collective insolvency proceedings at the request of its creditors.
- Where the undertaking has received rescue aid and has not yet reimbursed the loan or terminated the guarantee, or has received restructuring aid and is still subject to a restructuring plan.
- In the case of an undertaking that is not an SME, where, for the past two years:
 - the undertaking's book debt to equity ratio has been greater than 7.5; and
 - the undertaking's EBITDA interest coverage ratio has been below 1.0.

3. Eligibility

Projects will first be screened in terms of eligibility. Ineligible proposals in terms of the points below will not be processed further and will not undergo evaluation.

Maximum eligible timeframe to implement the project: 36 months from the result notification date. Projects supported through the 2023 session may be broadcast as from October 2024 to allow enough time for development and production. The period of eligibility of costs is between 19th September 2023 and 19th September 2026.

3.1 Who can apply?

The grant is open to undertakings (for which assistance will be granted in line with the General Block Exemption Regulation), within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU [kindly refer to Section 9 of these guidelines for additional information].

Applicants must qualify as one of the following:

- Private stations licenced by the Malta Broadcasting Authority
- Audio-visual companies that are registered with the Malta Business Registry, in accordance with the Companies Act (CAP 386 of the Laws of Malta) requirements in the case of a company or a partnership, and in accordance with the Civil Code (CAP 16 of the Laws of Malta) in the case of a foundation and an organisation/association.

Furthermore, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Be Maltese citizens; or be in possession of a Malta residence permit; a Maltese citizenship certificate or a Maltese passport
- Registered with the applicable regulating body at the time of submission of their applications
- In possession of a VAT registration certificate
- In possession of proof of having produced or co-produced audiovisual works that were distributed in the last five years
- The originator of the script or treatment or have majority rights relating to the project for which support is being requested

- The applicant is required to provide a signed contract covering the rights for artistic material
- The original language of the audio-visual work needs to be Maltese

In the case of more than one producer, the application must be filled by one company. The producers participating in the co-production must reach an agreement on this point and include a joint declaration which should be included in the application.

3.2 Who cannot apply?

- Applicants whose profile is not verified due to it being incomplete for not having the below mandatory documents:
 - a copy of your Maltese ID card (including the front and back side); or your Maltese residence permit; or your Maltese citizenship certificate; or your Maltese passport
 - a signed statute in the case of a voluntary organisation.
- Applicants who do not qualify under the definition of applicant for this specific scheme;
- Beneficiaries who have not honoured previous funding commitments;
- Entities who have not presented the required annual documentation to the Malta Business Registry.
- Organisations/activities receiving local public funds through established government line-votes;

3.3 What costs can be covered?¹

KulturaTV may cover up to 60% of the below indicated eligible costs (up to a maximum of €70,000 in the case of **drama**; €40,000 in the case of **creative TV documentaries**; €25,000 in the case of **culture programmes**, whichever is the lowest).

The eligible direct costs are identifiable as specific costs directly linked to the production of the work such as:

- Consumables and supplies
- Consultation, research and advice from professionals regarding for example, digitalisation, applying new business models, ethical issues, risk management, and health and safety
- Contingency, not exceeding 10% of the total cost
- Contributions in kind (not exceeding 5%)
- Health and safety measures
- Hire/purchase of equipment (purchase of equipment will only be considered if deemed necessary to the project)
- Insurance
- Marketing, PR, and communications

¹ All costs will be considered only if these resources are not already covered/cannot be covered by the applicants or supporting/partner organisations.

- Non-recoverable value added tax (VAT), where applicable
- Other fees directly related to project implementation (including but not limited to legal, mentors, service providers, participation fees, linguistic fees, etc.)
- Personnel and talent working under an employment contract with the applicant and assigned to the project, comprising actual salaries plus social security contributions and other statutory costs included in their remuneration, provided that these costs are in line with the applicant's usual policy on remuneration or, where applicable, its partners
- Production services provided by the broadcaster, excluding renting of equipment, may either be charged to the project or considered as a contribution towards co-funding
- Project management (including but not limited to: administration, coordination, development)
- Renting of spaces
- Standard accommodation, excluding long-term accommodation or part of
- Subscriptions to virtual platforms or other digital services where relevant (such as scriptwriting software, etc.)
- Subtitling/surtitling
- Transcription and captioning
- Translation from Maltese to any other European language
- Travel (economy class), including, but not limited to, public transport, air travel, car/vehicle rental
- Travel VISA

For the purposes of calculating aid intensity and eligible costs, all figures used will be taken before any deduction of tax or other charge. The eligible costs will be supported by documentary evidence which will be clear, specific, and contemporary.

For more information about presenting your budget, refer to our General Budget Guidelines, available on <https://www.artscouncilmalta.org/pages/funds-opportunities/schemes-2023/general-budget-guidelines/>.

3.4 What costs cannot be covered?

- Budgets exceeding 60% of the project expenditure
- Contributions in kind (exceeding 5%)
- Costs already covered by public cultural organisations, or another public funding programme managed or co-managed by Arts Council Malta or other public agency, government department, or Ministry
- Costs declared by the beneficiary and covered by another grant of the Government of Malta or the European Union
- Costs incurred before submission of application
- Costs incurred before the start of works and/or the eligibility period
- Costs incurred by a co-producer who will not be a co-beneficiary of an agreement in case of selection
- Costs that are not directly linked to the project

- Debt and debt service charges
- Doubtful debts
- Excessive or reckless expenditure
- Exchange losses
- Fees for services provided by public cultural organisations or other public agency, government department, or ministry
- Indirect producers' fees and contingencies
- Interest owed
- Provisions for losses or debts
- Recoverable VAT, where applicable
- Retroactive costs
- Return on capital
- Subsistence, catering, and hospitality

All costs eligible for funding under this scheme must be necessary and reasonable for the completion of the project and consistent with the principles of sound financial management and accounting practices.

3.5 What applications are not eligible?

- Activities that are not related to culture, arts, and the creative industries
- Activities whose objective is fundraising or political propaganda
- Advertising, corporate, and/or promotional films
- Applications for audio-visual productions that are not in the Maltese language
- Applications submitted after noon (12:00) of the respective day of deadline
- Applications submitted by public entities with or without a line vote
- Applications which do not qualify under the definition of cultural audio-visual production for this specific scheme
- Applications which do not qualify under the definition of difficult audiovisual work for this specific scheme
- Incomplete applications (refer to application checklist in section 5.1)
- Initiatives eligible under Screen Malta, TV Production and Content Fund, Annual Cultural Activities Scheme, VOPS, Għaqda Każini tal-Banda, the National Book Council, the Valletta Cultural Agency, Malta Arts Scholarships or any other state-funded programme dedicated to Maltese arts and/or culture
- Projects including and/or promoting political propaganda
- Projects promoting violence, racism, and pornographic content and content violating the Maltese Constitution
- Projects whose duration does not fall within the eligible timeframe

Any other activity that may be developed outside the scope of KulturaTV is not eligible for support.

Applicants can submit more than one application under the same call, however, only one of the applications can be funded per session.

4. Evaluation

The Evaluation Board will base its decision upon the following criteria:

4.1 Criterion 1: Concept (40 marks)

This criterion considers the concept idea(s) of the proposal, the collaborators involved, the relevance of the concept. The application will also need to refer to any plans for professional development and capacity building that form part of the proposal. Thus, the following questions are to be addressed:

- **Cultural Test**
 - **Content criteria**

Is the cultural audio-visual production:

 1. based on events that are a part of Maltese or European culture, history, mythology, or religion? (1 mark)
 2. based on current or historical events affecting Maltese or European society? (1 mark)
 3. based on Maltese or European culture, identity, customs, and traditions? (1 mark)
 4. based on a character or personality from Maltese or European culture, history, society, or religion? (1 mark)
 5. based on literary work or adapted from another discipline (fine arts, music, performing arts, etc.) of cultural importance? (1 mark)
 6. connected with a Maltese or European setting, place, location, architectural, or cultural setting? (1 mark)
 7. contributing to the development of its genre? (1 mark)
 8. focusing on current cultural, sociological, or political themes in Maltese or European society? (1 mark)
 9. reflecting on Maltese or European values such as cultural diversity, solidarity, equality, protection of minorities or human rights, tolerance, environmental protection, respect for cultural or family traditions, respect for nature, and sustainable use of natural resources? (2 marks)
 - **Production criteria**
 1. Are the following members of the production team Maltese citizens or citizens residing in an EEA member state? (6 marks)
 - a. Scriptwriter
 - b. Director
 - c. Director of Photography
 - d. Production Designer
 - e. Post-Production (editor)
 - f. Staff including costume designer, make-up artists, and/or composer
 2. Are at least 51% of the crew citizens (excluding those in the above list) of EEA countries? (1 mark)
 3. Is the shooting taking place in a location, heritage site, or a studio in Malta? (1 mark)
 4. Is the production using Maltese service providers in Malta? (1 mark)

5. Is post-production (including sound and visual post-production, laboratories, soundtrack recording, etc.) taking place in Malta or the EEA? (1 mark)

- Explain in detail the treatment of the work and the level of audio-visual aesthetic proposed. (10 marks)
- Provide information about the applicant's portfolio/show reel. Applicant should prepare and present a 2/3-minute show reel. (10 marks)

N.B - Successful applications must score a minimum of 20 marks under criterion 1

4.2 Criterion 2: Project Management (20 marks)

This criterion considers the level of commitment and preparation prior to the proposal as well as the proposed plan to deliver and achieve the aims targeted.

- Explain in detail the level and quality of pre-production development executed. (10 marks)
- Clearly define the production capacity and willingness to successfully produce the proposed work (5 marks)
- Provide a detailed profile of the creative talent and team involved in the production of the work. (5 marks)

4.3 Criterion 3: Audience Engagement (20 marks)

This criterion considers the engagement and the development of established and new audiences. Engagement refers to the role, the nature of involvement, and the experience offered to the audience.

- Who are your target audiences and how will these audiences be reached? Can you provide an outline of the marketing, PR, and communications plan as deemed relevant to the proposed programme/s of activities? Why did you opt for your chosen methods? (10 marks)
- The level of distribution in different territories beyond the first run. (10 marks)

4.4 Criterion 4: Budget (20 marks)

This criterion considers how well-planned and realistic the presented budget plan is.

- Please provide a clear budget breakdown including expenses directly related to the proposed production and sources of income and investments.
- Kindly explain the rationale for the expenses of the project (20 marks).

5. Submitting the application

Follow these steps to apply:

1. Read these guidelines and regulations very carefully
2. Check whether your proposed idea can be addressed by this scheme
3. Press the [link](#) that will take you to the online application system
4. Create your profile with Arts Council Malta by clicking on Register and filling in the details
5. From the open calls section, select the online application for the scheme you intend to apply for
6. Follow the instructions step by step. Fill in all required information from the online application, including the budget, and attach the supporting documentation
7. Submit the application. You should be receiving an automatic acknowledgement by the system. If you do not receive such a notification, contact us on applyforfunds@artscouncil.mt.

In case of difficulty, or if you would like to consult us regarding this fund, you can call us on 2334 7230 Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 16:00, or send an email on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt.

It is your responsibility to present a complete application form as explained in these guidelines and regulations. If you do not present all the necessary information and documentation, your application will not be processed and evaluated.

Prior to the application deadline, Arts Council Malta representatives will not be checking your application forms. It is solely at Arts Council Malta's discretion to request that applicants provide any missing mandatory documentation following the call deadline.

Upon submission of the application, applicants accept that should the application be awarded funding, the name, the project title, and the amount awarded can be published by Arts Council Malta.

A decision on funding will be made on the strength of the submitted information and supporting documents.

Applications handed in after 12.00 (noon) of the respective deadline cannot be accepted.

5.1 Checklist

In order to be complete, applications must be accompanied by:

- A copy of the VAT certificate of registration
- The most recent good standing certificate of registration – This document is renewed annually by the Malta Business Registry and is proof of compliance
- Bio notes of key contributors to the project
- Certified evidence to proof that the applicant does not qualify under the definition of undertaking in difficulty. Undertakings that were in difficulty during the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021 must provide certified proof that they were not in difficulty on 31st December 2019
- Evidence of ownership of rights for proposed project or contract of acquisition/transfer of rights

- In the case of an application that is submitted by an audio-visual company, the broadcaster letter of commitment, such as a demo memo and/or any other relevant documents, must be included in the application.
- Mood Board
- Treatment

Additional documentation (if available):

- Letter(s) of intent from financing partners
- Letter(s) of interest of co-development, co-production, pre-sale/distribution or other, agreement(s)

6. Evaluation process

This scheme is competitive and will be evaluated by a panel of sectorial experts according to established criteria.

As specified above, each criterion is allocated a number of specific marks. In order to be considered for funding, projects have to obtain an average of at least 60 marks, furthermore applications must obtain a minimum of 20 marks under Criterion 1.

Nevertheless, the evaluation session and funding decisions depend on the quality of the submitted proposals and on the availability of the funds. Therefore, obtaining 60 marks or more does not automatically mean that you will be awarded the funds. The Evaluation Board may decide not to allocate the total funds available for a particular call if the proposed projects do not reach the required level in terms of the fund criteria.

Eligible applications will be assessed by an evaluation team selected by the Council on the basis of their professional experience. Arts Council Malta will select evaluators on the basis of their independent and professional experience. The evaluators will present an assessment on each of the proposed projects, indicating the relevant ratings awarded.

6.1 Shortlisting

The evaluation board will meet during an initial evaluation session in which all eligible applications will be discussed. All applications will be given a score, and those scoring 60 marks (including a minimum of 20 marks under Criterion 1) and higher, will be shortlisted. The shortlisted applications will be invited to attend a pitching session.

The pitching session is not compulsory, and it is up to the applicant to accept to attend the pitching session, or not. Shortlisted applicants who opt out from attending a pitching session will not be penalised. It is solely at the evaluators' discretion to invite any applicant scoring less than 60 marks in total but obtains a minimum of 20 marks under Criterion 1, to attend a pitching session.

All applications, including those that are not shortlisted, will receive the official result notification together with a copy of the feedback form on the result date as indicated on page 2 of this document.

6.2 Pitching

The aim of the pitching session is to create an opportunity for applicants to make a case for their projects to the evaluators. The project applications would already have been reviewed by the evaluators and the fund managers before the pitching session. The writer, director, and producer may be present for the pitching session.

During the session, the applicant has the opportunity of presenting comments, latest insights, and additions to the already submitted project description.

The pitch can be presented in a variety of formats, including but not limited to: visual aids, power point presentations, audio, etc., but should not be longer than five (5) minutes. During the pitch, applicants are expected to explain the project's artistic vision and to communicate how the project will be implemented. This five-minute pitch will be followed by a Q&A session with the panel of evaluators.

6.3 Communication of results

On the day indicated on page 2, you will receive your result notification from Arts Council Malta. Together with the covering letter, we will also attach a copy of the evaluation form, indicating the reasons and marks leading to the Evaluation Board's decision, according to the fund criteria.

The order of classification of the projects, according to the marks allocated by the evaluators, will be published online. Only the names of the successful projects will be published; in the case of projects which have not been awarded any funds, only their reference number will be published.

If you have any difficulties concerning your results, you should email us on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt within five (5) days of receiving your funding decision.

No information on the evaluation process will be released before the official result notification. Any form of soliciting will automatically disqualify an application.

All information received by the Senior Fund Executive, Fund Manager and Evaluators will be considered confidential, both during and after the evaluation process. Provisions on data protection and confidentiality for successful projects will be included in the grant agreement.

7. Project implementation and monitoring

Beneficiaries must provide full documentation to support the application and budget plan within 30 days from receipt of the notification letter. The Council will accept a variation of up to 5% from the proposed total cost. The contingency indicated in the budget plan will support any variations from the proposed total cost. Under no circumstances will the Council be in a position to increase the grant awarded.

Upon provision and approval of the above mandatory documentation, a contract specifying the conditions of the fund will be signed. The grant may only be awarded upon completion of the above process within the established timeframe.

70% of the total amount allocated by the Evaluation Board will be processed after the signing of the contract. The final payment of 30% after the submission of the final report by the beneficiary, following approval by Arts Council Malta.

The beneficiaries must use the Arts Council's logo on all related material and specify that the project was supported by the grant as follows: **Supported by Arts Council Malta**, in all marketing, PR, and printed material. The grant received must be used solely for the purpose for which it was awarded, in line with the submitted proposal and the contract.

Beneficiaries must notify Arts Council Malta immediately if changes affecting the nature of the project take place during implementation. Changes cannot be implemented unless approval is received. Arts Council Malta reserves the right to revise or withhold the final payment if the change in the project is not considered to be in line with the initial proposal, or if the Council is not informed of the changes within a reasonable time.

Beneficiaries must make themselves available for visits and communication with Arts Council Malta representatives for monitoring purposes, both during the implementation of the project as well as after its completion.

Arts Council Malta also reserves the right to revise the final payment if the total expenditure is less than that estimated in the application form.

7.1 Report

At the end of your project, you will be required to submit a detailed report highlighting the work carried out and the project achievements, by not later than six (6) weeks after your project is concluded. Arts Council Malta will provide a template for your report. If relevant, together with this report, beneficiaries must submit copies of any relevant marketing, publicity, or information material developed for the funded project. Beneficiaries will also be requested to submit evidence of the research process, which includes visual documentation, blogs, and other documentation.

You will also be required to present a final updated budget together with all supporting documents.

Arts Council Malta retains the right to make use of submitted project material.

Arts Council Malta retains the right to recover funds in case these are not being used and/or are misused and/or are not used according to the submitted budget.

8. Complaints procedure

Filing a complaint will not affect your chances of receiving support from Arts Council Malta in the future. All complaints will be treated with confidentiality.

8.1 Grounds for complaints

Applicants can make a complaint regarding procedural anomalies and irregularities during the submission and evaluation process in terms of the procedures stipulated in these guidelines and regulations. Complaints cannot be made concerning:

- The Arts Council's or the government's policies and procedures
- The merits of the application in terms of the criteria stipulated in these guidelines and regulations

Only applicants may file complaints concerning their project.

8.2 Filing a complaint

Complaints must be made in writing and must be as clear as possible. The complaint must state the grounds and the reasons for the complaint, providing a detailed explanation and justification supported by relevant documentation or testimonials as to why the complainant deems that irregularities were committed in the procedure/s stipulated in these guidelines and regulations or in standard good governance rules and regulations governing the public sector. The decision at the end of the complaint process will be final. Complaints need to be made to the Director of Funding and Strategy, Arts Council Malta within five (5) working days of receipt of your funding decision. You will normally receive a reply to your complaint within ten (10) working days.

In case you are not satisfied with the reply, Arts Council Malta will convene a board that will discuss your complaint further. If you approach our complaints procedure, you are consequently accepting that we can use information about your project to address the complaint. The decision of the board is final.

9 Applicability of state aid rules

This scheme is applicable to:

- Private stations licensed by the Malta Broadcasting Authority
- Audio-visual companies that are registered with Malta Business Registry, in accordance with the Companies Act (CAP 386 of the Laws of Malta) requirements in the case of a company or a partnership, and in accordance with the Civil Code (CAP 16 of the Laws of Malta) in the case of a foundation and an organisation/association.

For the purposes of state aid rules, such applicants are deemed as undertakings that carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU. The terms and conditions set out in these guidelines will be implemented in line with Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) No 2017/1084 of 14 June 2017 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 as regards aid for port and airport infrastructure, notification thresholds for aid for culture and heritage conservation and for aid for sport and multifunctional recreational infrastructures, and regional operating aid schemes for outermost regions and amending Regulation (EU) No 702/2014 as regards the calculation of eligible costs, by Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/972 of 2 July 2020 amending Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 as regards its prolongation and amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 as regards its prolongation and relevant adjustments, by Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, and as may be subsequently amended [hereinafter referred to as the General Block Exemption Regulation].

This scheme is not applicable to the following:

- a. Activities listed down in Article 1 (2), (3), (4) and (5) of the General Block Exemption Regulation [where applicable].
- b. Undertakings in difficulty are in principle excluded from the scope of this scheme, unless the undertaking was not in difficulty on 31 December 2019 but became an undertaking in difficulty in the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021.

Furthermore, assistance may not be granted if the aid is:

- a. Related to export activities towards third countries or member states, namely aid directly linked to quantities exported, to the establishment and operation of a distribution network, or to other current expenditure linked to export activity.
- b. Contingent upon the use of domestic in preference to imported goods.
- c. In favour of a beneficiary which is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid granted by Malta illegal and incompatible with the internal market.

For the purposes of calculating the aid intensity and eligible costs, all figures used will be taken before any deduction of tax or other charge. The eligible costs will be supported by documentary evidence which will be clear, specific, and contemporary.

Rules on cumulation of aid will be in line with Article 8 of the General Block Exemption Regulation.



Need advice?

ACM offers pre-submission consultation services to help secure support for your project. We are there every step of the way. We can help you determine whether the core concept and profile of your project are in line with the targeted support mechanism and provide feedback on the way you plan to present your project. Plan ahead and get in touch with us at least four weeks before the submission deadline to make the best use of our services.

You are welcome to call us on 2334 7230, on weekdays, between 09:00 and 16:00, or to send us an email on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt

Guidelines updated on 20th January 2023.