

CULTURE AND HEALTH PLATFORM FUND FOR THE MALTESE ISLANDS

GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS 2025



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ARTS
COUNCIL
MALTA

**CULTURE
AND —
HEALTH**
platform

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ISSUED: APRIL 2025



ALLOCATIONS

SESSION BUDGET	MAXIMUM ELIGIBLE AMOUNT PER PROJECT
EUR 9,000 FOR STRAND 1	EUR 3,000 FOR STRAND 1
EUR 27,000 FOR STRAND 2	EUR 9,000 FOR STRAND 2
The Fund aims to have three beneficiaries for Strand 1 and three beneficiaries for Strand 2	

CO-FUNDING	DISBURSEMENT
The scheme may cover up to 100% of the total project costs	80% upon signing of grant agreement 20% following approval of final report

TIMEFRAMES

DEADLINE	RESULTS	ELIGIBLE TIMEFRAME
27 th May 2025	10 th July 2025	11 th July 2025 – 10 th July 2026



1. INTRODUCTION

The *CultureAndHealth platform fund for the Maltese islands* is part of a four-year international initiative aimed at supporting emerging European artists working at the intersection of culture, health, care, and the social sectors. The CultureAndHealth platform is co-funded by the European Union, Culture Action Europe and 14 European partner organisations, including ARC Research & Consultancy as the Maltese partner for the platform. The key benefits of the *CultureAndHealth platform* for artists include:

- Financial support for projects that bridge culture and health;
- International mobility and increased visibility;
- Trainings and capacity-building initiatives;
- Peer support and networking opportunities;
- Showcasing events highlighting artists' work.

For more information about the *CultureAndHealth platform*, you can consult the [online launch event](#) video. A collection of projects in the culture, health, and well-being fields can be found in the [CultureForHealth mapping database](#).

As part of the local platform initiatives, ARC Research & Consultancy, in collaboration with Arts Council Malta (from now onwards referred to as the Funding Entities), are issuing a fund targeting emerging Maltese and Malta-based artists and creative professionals in the intersectoral fields of culture, health, and care.

The scheme is supported in equal amounts by Arts Council Malta through funds allocated by the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government and ARC Research & Consultancy through funds allocated by the European Union.

In line with one of ACM's overarching themes focusing on care, this fund is a tool to further support the cultural and creative sectors by:

- Nurturing inter-sectoral collaborations at local, national, and international levels to support the intersection between culture, health, and care.
- Fostering an interest in culture, health, and care as an intersection which supports holistic well-being and prosperous societies.
- Exploring the positive effects of arts and cultural activities on health and well-being.
- Supporting the development of artists and creative professionals committed to exploring this field.
- Facilitating the creation of projects, programmes, and platforms that enable emerging artists to engage with specific communities, healthcare settings, and/or challenging health conditions through their artistic practice.
- Building and strengthening strategic partnerships, collaborations, and networks, on a national and international level, to enable sustainable opportunities and long-term systematic solutions at the intersection between Culture and Health.
- Valuing and positioning the diversity of artistic and cultural expression, access, and participation as integral to Malta's wider cultural and creative ecology.

This scheme recognises the potential of the intersection between culture, health, and care to support holistic well-being, disease prevention, and care processes, as well as stronger and healthier communities. Whilst recognising the value of all forms of practices and interventions,



this specific scheme is not intended to support arts therapy projects per se. The types of projects which this fund is looking to support are described under the sections 'Strand 1' and 'Strand 2'.

The scheme, which will be divided into two strands, will offer the opportunity for emerging artists to:

Strand 1 – International learning mobility

Engage in international shadowing/mentoring opportunities to support development and exchange of knowledge for emerging artists in this area.

This strand will enable individuals to express their interest in, and receive support for, international learning mobility, within the Creative Europe countries,¹ with an established entity or individual(s) specialising in culture and health practices, projects, and programmes.

The host needs to be contacted prior to the application stage, and to sign a letter of intent for submission with the application.

Strand 2 – Project Implementation

Propose projects, led by emerging artists in this field, promoting the improvement of the quality of life and cultural access in healthcare or social care settings.

This strand will support projects and/or programmes which bring together professionals and organisations across the arts, health, and social sectors that aim at supporting creative projects designed to deliver health and well-being benefits. Projects could include:

- Participatory art programmes for people experiencing physical and mental illnesses, as well as projects that focus on prevention, in diverse settings.
- Arts in healthcare environments, including projects designed to enhance healthcare environments and support the well-being of staff and patients.
- Productions in healthcare settings: which could include performances, installations, and exhibitions that support general well-being and highlight health-related issues.
- Artist residencies in healthcare or social care settings.
- Practice-based research activity.

The projects shall look into integrating new artistic practices—or strengthening existing programmes—within local communities and established structures, to foster long-term connections and sustainability. They shall also look at developing the work of the emerging artists involved.

The partnering healthcare or social care entity/organisation needs to be contacted prior to the application stage. The host needs to sign a letter of intent to be submitted with the application. The partnering organisation cannot be a/another cultural entity, but specifically needs to be a healthcare or social care entity/organisation.

In the case of Strand 2, applications submitted may:

- Form part of a wider project/body of work;
- Be self-contained projects;

¹ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/about-the-creative-europe-programme>



- Consist of a series of projects within a programme of activities.

In line with Strategy 2025 and with ACM's commitment to support the arts, adopting a sustainable and accountable approach to public investment, ACM draws applicants' attention to the following, in line with its Strategy 2025:

In the development of their application, applicants are required to follow the guidance provided in the [Right to Culture – Resource Pack](#), with particular regard to community engagement and the adoption of a rights-based approach to their work. The resource pack is aimed at increasing awareness with regard to inclusivity, and at supporting the implementation of cultural rights in day-to-day practice.

When proposing their operational and programming activities, applicants are also required to consider the [Charter for the Status of the Artist](#), to ensure acceptable and decent working conditions for artists and practitioners in cultural and creative sectors, embracing artistic freedom, accessibility, formal/informal/non-formal skill recognition, decent socio-economic conditions, non-discrimination and equity, ethical considerations, and adherence to intellectual property rights and international labour law. The Charter for the Status of the Artist is meant to provide a dynamic frame of reference for any legislation, policy, or initiative which directly or indirectly impacts artists and cultural and creative sectors, ensuring that any action is aligned with the ultimate long-term vision of elevating the status of artists in Malta in line with their tangible value to society.

2. DEFINITIONS

Applicant

- Applicants are Maltese or Malta-based emerging artists who may be applying as an individual, a group or an organisation. In case of groups or organisations, the applicant needs to identify the emerging artists leading/working on the project. Applicants cannot be employees of the Funding Entities or involved in the management of the Culture and Health Platform Fund for the Maltese Islands.

Application

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

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. In the case of a beneficiary that does not carry out economic activity and as a result is not

registered for VAT, the beneficiary has the duty to ascertain that they will receive a fiscal receipt for the goods and services received.

Community

- A group of people who share values, customs, identities or practices. In the case of the 'Culture and Health Platform Fund for the Maltese islands', the artist (=Applicant) is working with a chosen community, through artistic practices, in order to support the health and well-being of that given community.

Cooperatives

- Cooperatives must be registered with the Koperattivi Board. For more information, visit <https://maltacooperativefederation.coop/coops/bord-tal-koperattivi>.

Creative practitioners

- All artistic and creative individuals active in the cultural and creative sectors.

Culture and Health

- Merging the two fields of culture and health is proving to be beneficial on a number of levels. There is growing evidence (see [WHO 2019](#) and [CultureForHealth report](#)) that arts and cultural activities promote positive health and general well-being. Engagement in culture- and arts-based approaches often prove to be effective health-care responses in their own right. Various published reports highlight evidence of the positive effects of incorporating arts-based approaches to healthcare and health policies, and in addressing key health determinants. Therefore, the interdisciplinary field of culture and health actively promotes the intersection between the two fields—with a view to encouraging more sustainable interventions and effective collaborations, whilst providing further evidence of the link.

Disbursement of Funds

- The grant will be disbursed as indicated on page 2 of these Guidelines and Regulations. A payment consisting of 50% of the amount to be disbursed will be issued by each funding entity and will be issued to the applicant. The applicant must have an active bank account when submitting the application.

Diversity

- Individual differences in terms of age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, ethnicity, culture, belief, language, and socioeconomic background—in communities, creatives, and audiences.

Emerging artists

- Emerging artists are professional artists, regardless of age, who are beginning to establish themselves in the interprofessional space/field of culture, health, care, and the social sector.
- These artists should either:
 - a. have some experience or training in working within the intersection of culture, health, social and/or care sectors or
 - b. possess specialised training in the arts, which may not necessarily be from an academic institution, but have at least three years of professional artistic



- experience (measured in terms of the quality of their work, rather than duration), or
- c. have been successful in their specific artistic area, but are now starting / or would like to start working in the interprofessional field of Culture and Health / Arts and Health. These practitioners identify as emerging artists in this new role to further develop their practice.
- This description refers to artists who are passionate about integrating their arts practice with health and well-being initiatives.

Eligibility

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

Evaluation

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

Evaluation board

- The Funding Entities will appoint an Evaluation Board for each call under the Scheme. The appointed board may be composed of local or foreign professionals working at the intersection between culture and the arts.

Group

- A number of persons with or without legal personality may form a group. One of the persons involved must take the leading role and have the main legal responsibility for managing the project and the grant. This person must be a Maltese citizen or be in possession of a Malta residence permit or of a Maltese citizenship certificate or of a Maltese passport.

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.

Management and administration

- Arts Council Malta is responsible for the management of this scheme. All official correspondence, including the online submission of applications or updates to awarded proposals, must be submitted online through the Arts Council Malta's CRM as indicated in these guidelines.

Mandatory documentation

- Any document(s) needed to support your application 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 ceiling amount of €3,000 per project to be allocated for Strand 1, and €9,000 per project to be allocated for Strand 2. Amounts awarded will be decided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the project.

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, and National Agency for Performing Arts.

Registered entities

- An entity legally established and registered in Malta. Registered entities must be registered with the Malta Business Registry, in accordance with the Companies Act requirements in the case of a company or a partnership, and in accordance with the Civil Code in the case of a Foundation and an Organisation/Association.

Self-sustainability

- Refers directly to those projects which may, in the short or long-term, prove to be financially sustainable, i.e. can be implemented without the need of public investment. Financial sustainability of the project may be the result of the contribution, participation or investment of third parties in the products or services being offered by the applicant(s) within the proposed project.

Single undertaking

- Means all enterprises having at least one of the following relationships with each other:
 - a. One enterprise has a majority of the shareholders' or members' voting rights in another enterprise;
 - b. One enterprise has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of another enterprise;
 - c. One enterprise has the right to exercise a dominant influence over another enterprise pursuant to a contract entered into with that enterprise or pursuant to a provision in its memorandum or articles of association;
 - d. One enterprise, which is a shareholder in or member of another enterprise, controls alone, pursuant to an agreement with other shareholders in or members of that enterprise, a majority of shareholders' or members' voting rights in that enterprise.

Enterprises having any of the relationships referred to in points (a) to (d) above through one or more other enterprises shall be considered to be a single undertaking.

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 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.

Voluntary organisation

- An organisation which is legally established and/or publicly registered in Malta, having a statute. Voluntary organisations must be enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations in accordance with the Voluntary Organisations Act requirements (<http://www.maltacvs.org>). The applicant must be a legally authorised representative of the organisation.

3. Eligibility

Proposals will first be screened in terms of technical and artistic eligibility. Proposals ineligible in terms of the points below shall not be processed further and shall not undergo evaluation.

Maximum eligible timeframe to implement the project: 12 months.

3.1. Who can apply?

Applicants must be Maltese or Malta-based emerging artists (please refer to definition in section 2) who qualify as one of the following:

- Creative professionals/individual artists;
- Entities registered with the Malta Business Registry (including companies, partnerships, foundations, and organisations/associations);
- Groups, collectives, and consortia;
- Registered cooperatives;
- Voluntary organisations enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations.

In case of entities, groups, collectives, consortia, cooperations, and voluntary organisations, the application needs to point out the emerging artists who will lead the process.

Kindly refer to Section 9 of these Guidelines and Regulations for information regarding the applicability of State aid rules to applicants/projects.

3.2. Who cannot apply?

The following are not eligible to apply:

- Applicants who do not qualify under the definition of applicant for this specific scheme.
- Applicants whose profile is not verified, due to the profile being incomplete by reason of not having the below mandatory documents:
 - a copy of your Maltese ID card (including both 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.
- Beneficiaries who already benefitted from the Culture and Health Platform Fund for the Maltese Islands in previous calls.
- Beneficiaries who have not honoured previous funding commitments.
- Beneficiaries who did not submit or complete at least one final report related to a previous grant funded by Arts Council Malta within the established timeframes.
- In the case of registered entities, entities who have not presented the required annual documentation to the Malta Business Registry.
- In the case of voluntary organisations, voluntary organisations:
 - That are not enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations;
 - That have not presented their updated accounts to the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations;
 - That do not have a registered address in the Maltese Islands.
- Organisations/activities receiving local public funds through established Government line-votes.

3.3. What costs can be covered?

3.3.1. Strand 1 – International learning mobility

This grant may cover up to 100% of the following costs (up to a maximum of €3,000 per project, whichever is the lowest):

- Artistic fees in terms of services related to shadowing or mentorship.
- Travel (economy class) and standard accommodation of chaperones (this will be considered on a case-by-case basis).
- Travel (economy class), including but not limited to public transport, air travel, car/vehicle rental.
- Insurance.
- Standard accommodation (excluding long-term rental, or part of).
- Travel VISA.
- Marketing and communications (not exceeding 10% of total costs, these may include but are not limited to photography and videography).
- Other fees directly related to project implementation (including but not limited to legal, service providers, participation fees, linguistic fees etc.).
- Contingency, not exceeding 10% of the total cost.
- Indirect costs, not exceeding 5% of the total cost.

3.3.2. Strand 2 – Project Implementation

This grant may cover up to 100% of the following costs (up to a maximum of €9,000 per project, whichever is the lowest):

- Artistic fees;
- Digitalisation;
- Documentation costs;
- Health and safety measures;



- Hire/purchase of equipment (purchase of equipment will only be considered if deemed necessary to the project);
- Insurance;
- Marketing and communications, not exceeding 10% of project total;
- Other fees directly related to project implementation (including but not limited to: service providers, mentors, legal, participation or enrolment, linguistic fees, surtitling, etc);
- Printed material;
- Production costs;
- Project management fees (including but not limited to: administration, coordination, development);
- Rental of spaces;
- Subscriptions to virtual platforms or other digital services, where relevant;
- Travel (economy class) including, but not limited to, public transport, air travel, car/vehicle rental;
- Standard accommodation (excluding long-term rental, or part of);
- Travel VISA;
- Contingency, not exceeding 10% of project total;
- Indirect costs, not exceeding 5% of the total cost (examples – servicing: electricity, water, cleaning; telephone / fax / Internet connections; postage and mailing; paper, ink / cartridge, stationery, etc).

For more information about presenting your budget, refer to our General Budget Guidelines available on <https://artscouncilmalta.gov.mt/funding-and-grants/general-budget-guidelines/>.

3.4. What costs cannot be covered?

3.4.1. Strand 1 – International learning mobility

- Costs already covered by public cultural organisations, or another public funding programme/scheme managed or co-managed by Arts Council Malta or another public agency, Government department or Ministry.
- Costs which are already covered through usual operational budgets (for example the space which is owned by the applicant or the partner/supporting organisation/individual).
- Fees for services provided by public cultural organisations or another public agency, government department or ministry.
- Funding for the creation or upholding of bursaries, contests, competitions, prizes or scholarships.
- Reimbursement of salaries or of a part thereof.
- Retroactive costs.
- Subsistence, catering, and hospitality.



3.4.2. Strand 2 – Project Implementation

- Costs already covered by public cultural organisations, or another public funding programme/scheme managed or co-managed by Arts Council Malta or other public agency, Government department or Ministry.
- Costs which are already covered through usual operational budgets (for example the space which is owned by the applicant or the partner/supporting organisation/individual).
- Fees for services provided by public cultural organisations or by another public agency, government department or ministry.
- Funding for the creation or upholding of bursaries, contests, competitions, prizes or scholarships.
- Recoverable VAT, where applicable.
- Reimbursement of salaries or of a part thereof.
- Retroactive costs.
- Subsistence, catering, and hospitality.

3.5. What applications are not eligible?

The following applications are not eligible under this scheme:

- Activities of an intrinsically self-sustainable nature.
- Activities not related to culture, the arts, and the creative industries
- Activities which do not integrate culture, the arts, and the creative industries into health, care, and well-being.
- Activities whose objective is fundraising or political propaganda.
- Applications to fund the creation or upholding of contests, competitions, bursaries, prizes, or scholarships.
- Applications submitted after noon (12:00) of the respective day of deadline.
- Applications submitted by public entities with or without a line vote.
- Costs for traditional activities and festivities.
- Events held on a regular basis, including annual projects, annual festivals, school/annual shows, regular training programmes.
- Incomplete applications. Refer to application checklist in Section 5.1.
- Individual modules credited as part of an educational course, or research as part of an established academic programme.
- Initiatives eligible under Festivals Malta, Annual Cultural Activities Scheme, VOPS, National Book Council, Valletta Cultural Agency, Malta Arts Scholarships or any other State-funded programme dedicated to Maltese Arts/Culture.
- Projects that would have already started and/or taken place before the result is notified to applicant(s).
- Projects the duration of which does not entirely fall within the eligible timeframe.
- Training programmes required to renew professional licences or accreditations.
- Applications for platforms which applicants have already attended or participated in.



Any other activity which may be developed outside the scope of the Culture and Health Platform Fund for the Maltese Islands is not eligible for support.

Applicants can submit more than one application under this call. However, only one of the applications can be funded per session. Applicants may be awarded support for only one application and under only one Strand through this call and for future calls.

4. EVALUATION

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

4.1. Strand 1 – International learning mobility

4.1.1. Criterion 1 - Relevance (40 marks)

In terms of this scheme, this criterion considers the concept, plan, and intention of the applicant. This criterion also considers the impact of the proposed opportunity to the formation of the artists, collaborators and participants when relevant. Specifically, the applicant should answer the questions below:

- How does this opportunity contribute to the applicant's professional growth and what is its relevance? In what ways does the applicant expect this experience to benefit your practice or career development? (10 marks)
- Provide an outline which explains how the proposed shadowing/mentoring opportunity will be structured and delivered (10 marks)
- What are the merits and value of the selected host/mentor? (10 marks)
- How does the chosen delivery method and the professionals engaged, support the applicant's specific training or development needs? Applicants should also consider how the application aligns with the underlying principles of the Right to Culture – Resource Kit and the Charter for the Status of the Artist, as in Section 1. (10 marks)

4.1.2. Criterion 2 - Management (20 marks)

In terms of this scheme this criterion considers the level of commitment and preparation prior to the proposal as well as the proposed plan to deliver and achieve the objectives of the application.

- Provide an outline of the goals and outcomes envisaged. (10 marks)
- What experience or skills does the applicant have that demonstrate ability to manage this activity effectively, including financial responsibilities? If applicable, please provide details on co-funding and the plan to manage the project's budget. (10 marks)



4.1.3. Criterion 3 - Opportunities (20 marks)

This criterion considers the artists' long-term professional benefits and the acquisition of new skills and experience.

- Is the opportunity set to provide the applicants with long-term professional benefits that come with the experience? (10 marks)
- Will there be an opportunity to acquire new skills and experience as well as the potential for long-term collaboration with the host? (10 marks)

4.1.4. Criterion 4 - Budget (20 marks)

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

- Is the application, including the budget presented, well-researched and well-planned? (10 marks)
- Are the objectives of the project clearly reflected throughout the application and financial plan? (10 marks)

4.2. Strand 2 - Project Implementation

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

4.2.1. Concept (30 marks)

This criterion reflects the concept of the application; the aims, objectives, and outcomes of the proposal; and the relevance of the concept to the remit of this fund.

- Please provide a detailed description of the concept proposed vis-à-vis the priorities of this fund, as identified above. Clearly define the aims, objectives, and expected outcomes of this project. (10 marks)
- Clearly define the concept's relevance vis-à-vis the development of the artists involved, as well as to the benefit of the partner organisations. (10 marks)
- Please provide the co-creative process proposed to achieve the desired outcomes together with the intersectoral collaborators identified (This should also include evidence of how the proposal gives due consideration to the principles linked to the Right to Culture – Resource Kit and the Charter for the Status of the Artist as in Section 1). (10 marks)

4.2.2. Engagement (25 marks)

This criterion reflects the level of engagement with established communities, as well as the strength of the proposed dissemination plans.

'Engagement' refers to the role, the nature of involvement, and the experience offered to the participants that may also be reached through participatory artistic approaches. Projects should be supporting at least eight encounters with the communities identified, in order to ensure maximum effectivity.



- Please provide the plan of engagement and collaboration proposed vis-à-vis the health entities/organisations identified. (10 marks)
- Please elaborate on the core audiences (internal and/or external) of the project proposed to benefit the health and well-being of the participants targeted. how will these audiences be reached? (10 marks)
- Please provide an outline of the marketing, PR, and communications plan as applicable to the proposed activity and supporting the general advocacy for the intersection between culture and health. (5 marks)

4.2.3. Project Management (25 marks)

This criterion reflects the level of commitment and preparation in the run-up to the proposal, as well as the proposed plan to deliver and achieve the activity's aims and targets.

- Please submit a plan for the delivery of the proposed activity (Kindly include step-by-step timeframes, methodology, work plans, respective roles and responsibilities within the project, skill sets, track record, portfolios, logistics plans, as applicable). (5 marks)
- Please submit a letter of intent issued by a host/partnering organisation. The letter of intent must include a brief summary of the roles and responsibilities that are being committed. It must also outline the host's motivation in participating in the project. The host/partnering organisation must also submit their track record and ambitions in the field of culture and health. The host/partnering organisation shall be non-cultural, for example from the health and social sectors. Are there any necessary permits, copyright issues and other legal, ethical, and administrative matters to be addressed? (10 marks)
- What is the degree of flexibility in the planning, given the relevant risks and uncertainties? What are the mitigation measures envisaged in view of the identified risks? (e.g. contingency plans, risk assessments, health and safety measures, possible adjustments that may take place) (5 marks)
- Please explain the relevance of the proposal to your track record as well as to your ambitions and aspirations in the culture and health field. (5 marks)

4.2.4. Budget and sustainability (20 marks)

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

- Is the application, including the budget presented, well-researched and well-planned? (10 marks)
- Are the objectives of the project clearly reflected throughout the application and financial plan? (10 marks).

5. SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Follow these steps to apply:



1. Read these Guidelines and Regulations carefully.
2. Check whether your proposed idea can be addressed by this Scheme.
3. Click on the [link](#) to the online application system.
4. Use your existing profile to apply. If you do not have a profile, 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 the required information from the online application, including the budget, and attach the supporting documentation.
7. Submit the application. You should receive an automatic acknowledgement by the system. If you do not receive such a notification, contact us on applyforfunds@artscouncil.mt.

Applicants are required to register a profile on the ACM's CRM at least two weeks prior to the deadline of the call.

In case of difficulty, or if you would like to consult us regarding this scheme, you can call us on 2334 7230 Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 16:00 or email us 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, the Funding Entities' representatives will not be checking your application forms. It is solely at the Funding Entities' discretion to request that applicants provide any missing mandatory documentation following the call deadline.

Upon the submission of the application, applicants are to accept that, should the application be awarded funding, the name, project title, short project description, and amount awarded can be published by the Council.

A decision on funding will be made on the strength of the information submitted, including documentation in support of the application.

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

5.1. Checklist

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

- Applicant biography/artistic CV to be included in the applicant profile.
- A copy of the VAT certificate of Registration.
- A de minimis declaration form, where applicable.
- Audiovisuals/portfolio showcasing the applicant's work, as relevant to the application (Audiovisuals up to 5MB may be uploaded directly in the application form. Larger files these may be provided as a link).
- If applicable, proof of the organisation's/company's legal registration.



- If applicable, a most recent Good Standard Certificate of Registration. This document is renewed annually by the Malta Business Registry and is proof of compliance.

Strand 1

- Letter of intent signed by the host partner.
- Description of the international learning mobility as in the online application system.

Strand 2

- Letter of intent from the healthcare or social care entity hosting the project.
- Letters of intent from all the collaborators.

6. EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATIONS

This scheme is competitive and will be evaluated by a panel of relevant experts, in terms of the established criteria.

As specified above, each criterion is allocated specific marks. In order to be considered for funding, applications need to obtain an average of 60 marks or more.

Nevertheless, the evaluation session and funding decisions depend on the quality of the submitted application as well as the availability of the funds. Therefore, obtaining 60 marks or more does not automatically mean that your project application will be supported. Furthermore, 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 established criteria.

Eligible applications will be assessed by an evaluation team selected by the funding entities 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. Communication of results

On the day indicated on page 2 ('Results'), you will receive your result notification from ACM. Together with the covering letter, the funding entities will also attach a copy of the feedback form, indicating the reasons and marks leading to the Evaluation Board's decision, according to the Scheme criteria.

The order of classification of the projects, according to the marks allocated by the evaluators, will be published online. Only the names and summaries 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. Furthermore, ARC Research & Consultancy Ltd will be required to submit a report to the *CultureandHealth platform* which will include the name of the artist, their nationality, email-address, and the art form—this information will not be made public.



If you have any difficulties concerning your results, you should email us on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt within five (5) working 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 Scheme administrators, managers, and evaluators will be considered confidential, both during and after the evaluation process. In the case of successful projects, provisions on data protection and confidentiality 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 Funding Entities 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 Funding Entities 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 scheme will be signed by the beneficiary, Arts Council Malta and ARC Research and Consultancy Ltd. 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 and paid by means of two separate payments equivalent to 50% of the amount due by each funding entity. The remaining 30% will be disbursed and paid by means of two separate payments equivalent to 50% of the amount due by each funding entity, after the submission of the final report by the beneficiary, following approval by the Funding Entities.

The beneficiaries must use the logos on all related material and specify that the project was supported by the grant, as follows: Supported by 1) Arts Council Malta; 2) CultureAndHealth platform; 3) ARC Research & Consultancy; and 4) co-funded by the European Union, 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 application and the contract.

Beneficiaries must notify the Funding Entities immediately if changes affecting the nature of the project are required during implementation. Changes cannot be implemented unless approval is received. The Funding Entities reserve 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 application, or if the Funding Entities are not informed of the changes within a reasonable time.

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

The Funding Entities also reserve 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, the collaborative and co-creating components and the project achievements, by not later than six (6) weeks after your project has concluded. Your report should include reflections on how collaborative work benefited the project and vice versa, including suggestions on how to strengthen/reshape engagement with audiences and communities.

Arts Council Malta will provide templates 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 project process, which includes visual documentation (a minimum of 5, high-res images should be submitted), short videos, blogs and other documentation. You will also be required to present a final updated budget together with all supporting documents.

The Funding Entities retain the right to make use of submitted project material. The Funding Entities retain 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 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 shall be final. Complaints need to be made



to the Director of Funding and Strategy 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, then you are 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

The contribution from Arts Council Malta through funds allocated by the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, will give rise to State aid implications in the case of undertakings that carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU. In such cases, assistance will be granted in line with the *de minimis* Regulation. No State aid implications will arise in the case of assistance awarded to those applicants that do not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU, as well as to proposed projects that would not involve such an economic activity. .

On the other hand, the contribution that will be provided by ARC Research & Consultancy Ltd, through funds allocated by the European Union, will not be considered as State Aid in all cases.

9.1. State Aid rules applicable for undertakings that carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU

The State Aid scheme will be implemented in line with the provisions of Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid.

In line with the *de minimis* regulation, assistance will not be granted to:

1. undertakings active in the primary production of fishery and aquaculture products;
2. undertakings active in the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, where the amount of the aid is fixed on the basis of price or quantity of products purchased or put on the market;
3. undertakings active in the primary production of agricultural products;
4. undertakings active in the processing and marketing of agricultural products, in one of the following cases:
 - a. where the amount of the aid is fixed on the basis of the price or quantity of such products purchased from primary producers or put on the market by the undertakings concerned;
 - b. where the aid is conditional on being partly or entirely passed on to primary producers;



5. export-related activities towards third countries or Member States, namely aid directly linked to the quantities exported, the establishment and operation of a distribution network or other current expenditure linked to the export activity.

Furthermore, aid will not be granted if it is contingent upon the use of domestic goods and services over imported goods and services.

The total amount of *de minimis* aid granted to a single undertaking shall not exceed the amount of €300,000 over any period of three years. This period is assessed on a rolling basis.

This maximum threshold would include all State Aid granted under this aid scheme and any other State Aid measure implemented in line with the *de minimis* regulation including that received and/or applied for from any entity other than Arts Council Malta. Any *de minimis* aid received in excess of the established threshold will have to be recovered, with interest, from the undertaking receiving the aid.

The rules on cumulation of aid as outlined in Article 5 of the *de minimis* regulation will be respected.

Applicants are to submit a *de minimis* declaration indicating any other *de minimis* aid received and/or applied for during the applicable three-year period. This will ensure that the total amount of *de minimis* aid granted to a single undertaking under the *de minimis* rule will not exceed the *de minimis* threshold over the applicable three-year period.

Should a successful applicant not be eligible to receive *de minimis* aid, the said applicant will be deemed ineligible and the next ranked applicant will be awarded.

In line with the *de minimis* regulation, records regarding *de minimis* aid shall be maintained by Arts Council Malta for 10 years from the date on which the aid under the scheme is granted.

Publication in Central Register

In line with Article 6(1) of the *de minimis* regulation, as of 1 January 2026, information on *de minimis* aid granted under this scheme shall be made publicly available in a central register.

The following information shall be made public:

- the identification of the beneficiary;
- the aid amount;
- the granting date;
- the aid instrument; and
- the sector involved on the basis of the statistical classification of economic activities in the Union ('NACE classification').

9.2. Non-State aid option

Applicants that do not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU may apply for the scheme. Applications for proposed projects that do not give rise to an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU may also be submitted for funding.



In both cases, the rules outlined in Section 9.1 will not be applicable.

Need advice?

We're there every step of the way!

Our Creative Brokerage team can help you find the right support and provide feedback on the way you plan to present your application. To make the best of our services, plan ahead and get in touch with us at least four weeks before the submission deadline.

Call us: +356 2334 7230

Email us: fundinfo@artscouncil.mt

Our office is open: 09:00–16:00, Mon–Fri (Malta time)

Guidelines updated on 11th April 2025