

CULTURE AND HEALTH PLATFORM FUND FOR THE MALTESE ISLANDS

GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS 2026



**CULTURE
AND —
HEALTH**
platform

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ISSUED: FEBRUARY 2026



ALLOCATIONS

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

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
7th April 2026	21 st May 2026	22 nd May 2026 – 22 nd May 2027



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 practice and intervention within the field of Culture and Health, this scheme will specifically prioritise artist-led initiatives operating at this intersection. 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.

For the details regarding Strand 2 kindly refer to the guidelines and regulations for Strand 2, available on the same page.

Strand 1 – International learning mobility

This scheme will offer the opportunity for emerging artists to engage in international shadowing/mentoring opportunities to support development and exchange of knowledge for emerging artists in this area.

This strand supports individuals to express their interest in, and receive support for, participation in pre-defined, international learning and networking opportunities within the intersectoral field of Culture and Health, Care, and the Social Sectors. Applicants are invited to choose one of the below opportunities and to clearly justify the rationale for their choice by making direct reference to their practice and their current research interests.

The following are details about each mobility opportunity offered. Applicants are required to contact the hosts and discuss their participation in order to obtain a letter of intent:

Opportunity 1: The Culture and Health Forum in Vienna (Austria) in 2026

Between the 7th and the 11th of September 2026, the Culture and Health Platform will be organising another conference bringing together partners, stakeholders and creative practitioners working at the intersection between culture and health. The conference will be organised by platform member Arts for Health Austria and will include a range of different activities including networking and exchanges, training, presentations. This platform would be ideal if you are looking to learn more about the current trends in culture and health, if you are seeking to extend your international connections, partnerships and projects and if you are interested in furthering your practice at the intersection of arts and health.

More information is available here: <https://www.cultureandhealth.eu/events/culture-and-health-forum/>

To get in touch with the host to discuss your potential participation, please contact marie@cultureactioneurope.org. In your subject please clearly indicate that your correspondence is related to the Culture and Health Platform Fund for the Maltese Islands.



Opportunity 2: One-to-one shadowing opportunity with Saaramaija Zorawski

This shadowing opportunity offers a five-day peer-learning experience in Finland, in September 2026, combining observation, participation, and reflective exchange within healthcare and care settings. The programme includes preparation and participation in a group session at a cancer centre, creative development work with mentoring discussions, and a full-day engagement in a care home, concluding with a reflection session.

Profile:

Saaramaija Żórawski is a musician and music pedagogue whose practice blends composition, performance, and participatory methods in hospitals, nursing homes, and community spaces. She works with her self-developed Ääneen Laulettu (“Sung Out Loud”) method, which combines music, creative writing, and artistic expression to support emotional processing and strengthen human connection.

In her recent project at Helsinki University Hospital’s Cancer Center, Saaramaija brought the Ääneen Laulettu method to young adults recovering from cancer treatments. Through music, writing, and collaborative art-making, participants explored their experiences, reduced feelings of isolation, and created shared meaning during a vulnerable transition in their lives.

The project also contributes to the development of a music-based workshop model for hospital environments and promotes the integration of arts-based approaches into healthcare. Saaramaija’s work highlights the potential of music to nurture well-being, support mental health, and build community in clinical settings.

To get in touch with the host to discuss your potential participation, please write to:

saaramaijapauliina@gmail.com

Opportunity 3: One-to-one shadowing opportunity with Rita Winde and Joanne Thede

This shadowing opportunity offers a three-day learning visit to Sweden (Helsingborg) in autumn, provisionally September. The selected artist will observe and participate in arts-in-care practices, including attending a workshop in an elderly home, learning about local methods and materials, meeting artists and cultural spaces, and visiting regional art institutions.

Profile - Rita Winde:

Rita creates participatory projects that invite collective reflection. With this project, she develops painting workshops for people with dementia, their families, and staff, exploring how art can change interactions in care settings.

Rita Winde is a Swedish painter and performance artist based in the south of Sweden. She earned her MFA from Valand Art Academy and works between studio and public spaces to explore society, history and relations. In projects such as edithforce, she creates participatory experiences that provoke questions like “Why is it the way it is?” and “What can we do?” Her visual and performance work invites audiences into shared processes and encourages reflection and collective engagement.



Develop painting workshops involving people with dementia, staff, and family members. She wants to explore how interactions between people change when artistic creation is introduced into a residential facility for individuals with cognitive impairments.

Joanna Thede:

Born in 1969, Joanna Thede has lived half of her life in a small old fishing village called Råå south of Helsingborg in Sweden. She also lived 4 years in Tanzania as a child and in France, Denmark and Scotland as a young adult. Joanna Thede studied languages and art history before entering Glasgow School of

Art where she graduated from the Sculpture Department in 2003. She has also attended fine art courses at Malmö University and University College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm. Since 2003, she has been working as an artist, mainly with light installations and has made several public art works. During this time, she has also worked with art classes for children and youth, and with art in hospitals. Joanna Thede has received several grants from The Swedish Arts Grants Committee and from Nordic Culture Point. She has exhibited in Scotland, Ireland, Estonia, Lithuania, Greece, Germany, Hungary and India as well as in the Nordic countries, and is represented also in Tanzania and South Africa by private collectors.

To get in touch with the host to discuss your potential participation, please write to:

joannathede@gmail.com

2. DEFINITIONS

Applicant

- Applicants are Maltese or Malta-based individual emerging artists. 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.

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 reports published 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:
 - have some experience or training in working within the intersection of culture, health, social and/or care sectors or
 - 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
 - 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 Health.

Individual

- Individuals applying for this scheme 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 and ARC Research & Consultancy are 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. 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.



Single undertaking

- Means all enterprises having at least one of the following relationships with each other:
 - One enterprise has a majority of the shareholders' or members' voting rights in another enterprise;
 - One enterprise has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of another enterprise;
 - 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;
 - 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 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.

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:

- Creative professionals/individual artists;

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.
- Organisations/activities receiving local public funds through established Government line-votes.

3.3. What costs can be covered?

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

- Fees related to the participation in the opportunity selected
- Insurance;
- 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;

3.4. What costs cannot be covered?



- 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 an application under a separate strand through this call.

4. EVALUATION

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

4.1.1. Relevance (40 marks))

In terms of this scheme this criterion considers the rationale for selecting the chosen pre-defined platform and the alignment of that platform with the applicant's professional journey and objectives in the Culture and Health field. Specifically, the applicant should answer the questions below.

The following points should be addressed in not more than 500 words:

- 1. How relevant is the proposed platform opportunity to the applicant's current practice and professional growth? (20 marks)
- 2. How clearly is the applicant's plan for integrating the learning from the chosen opportunity into their future work in the Culture and Health field articulated? (15 marks)
- 3. What are the plans beyond the implementation of this proposal? (5 marks)

4.1.2. Management (20 marks)

In terms of this scheme this criterion considers the level of commitment and preparation.

The following points should be addressed in not more than 300 words:

- Are the goals and outcomes clearly defined? Does the applicant show readiness and commitment to engage with the selected opportunity? (20 marks)

4.1.3. Opportunities (20 marks)

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

The following points should be addressed in not more than 300 words:

- 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. 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 a document issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Revenue showing that the applicant is a taxpayer in Malta.
- A copy of the Maltese VAT certificate of Registration.
- A de minimis declaration form, where applicable.
- An audio or audiovisual recording not exceeding 5 minutes in which the applicant provides a short description of the opportunity and the rationale and/or motivation for submitting this proposal.
- 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.
- Letter of intent signed by the host partner.
- Description of the international learning mobility as in the online application system.

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, according to the marks allocated by the evaluators, will be published online. Only the names 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) 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

All beneficiaries need to provide any documentation requested by the Funding Entities to confirm their participation, availability, and logistical requirements within 30 days of receiving the notification letter.

Upon provision and approval of the required documentation, a contract outlining the conditions of the scheme will be issued. The grant support may only be confirmed once this process is completed within the established timeframe.

Beneficiaries must use the required logos on all related material and clearly state that the mobility opportunity was supported by:

1. Arts Council Malta,
2. The *CultureAndHealth* Platform,
3. ARC Research & Consultancy, and
4. co-funded by the European Union

This needs to be included in all marketing, PR, and printed material. The support received must be used solely for the purpose for which it is awarded and in line with the submitted application and contract.

Beneficiaries must notify the Funding Entities immediately if changes affecting their planned participation arise at any point. Changes cannot be implemented unless written approval is received. The Funding Entities reserve the right to revise or withdraw support if the change is not considered to be in line with the original application, or if timely notification is not provided.

Beneficiaries must make themselves available for communication and for monitoring by the Funding Entities' representatives, both during the mobility experience and, where relevant, after its completion.



Since the scheme covers all eligible costs directly, the Funding Entities reserve the right not to proceed with any booking or payment if participation is cancelled, significantly altered, or deemed no longer compliant with the approved application.

If a beneficiary is no longer able to participate in the approved mobility opportunity, they must notify the Funding Entities in writing immediately, providing a clear explanation for the cancellation. Any non-refundable costs already incurred directly by the scheme (such as travel, accommodation, participation fees, or insurance) will be reviewed, and the Funding Entities reserve the right to request reimbursement from the beneficiary if the cancellation is deemed unjustified or negligent. In cases of justified cancellation (such as medical emergencies or other similar circumstances), the Funding Entities will assess the situation and may allow for reconsideration, rescheduling, or withdrawal without penalty on a case by case basis.

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 Funding 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 19th February 2026