

Klabb 3-16 Grant

Guidelines and Regulations 2026



ISSUED: JUNE 2026

ALLOCATIONS

SESSION BUDGET	MAXIMUM ELIGIBLE AMOUNT PER PROJECT
EUR 50,000	EUR 10,000

CO-FUNDING	DISBURSEMENT
The fund may cover up to 100% of total project costs	70% upon signing of grant agreement 30% following approval of final report

TIMEFRAMES

DEADLINE	RESULTS	ELIGIBLE TIMEFRAME
10th September 2026	23rd October 2026	1 st January 2027 – 30 th June 2027

1. Introduction

The Foundation for Educational Services (FES) and Arts Council Malta (ACM) jointly announce a call for the submission/proposal of touring artistic and cultural projects targeting children and students aged 3-6 (grades K1 – 3 years, K2 – 4 years, Y1 – 5 years, Y2 – 6 years). Activities are to be held during the scholastic year 2026/2027.

This call is intended to enable creative practitioners to generate captivating, creative, innovative, original as well as already existing work, for audiences in these age categories and to provide the opportunity for children to experience two activities as an extension to their formal education.

The objectives of the grant are to provide every child and student with diverse cultural experiences across different genres and styles, to enable educational growth for students attending Klabb 3-16, and to encourage collaboration between the educational and cultural sectors. In line with Strategy 2030, this initiative will support young people to engage in cultural and artistic activities, cultivating new audiences and thus contributing to the sustainability of the cultural and creative sectors.

Through this grant, students of Klabb 3-16 who are 3 to 6 years of age will be given an opportunity of experiencing at least six artistic productions during the scholastic year, which have been produced by creative professionals through a curated programme of at least six sessions. The programme will be formed of projects selected through a rigorous evaluation process following an open call for applications. Five projects will be selected and will be offered a budget of a maximum of ten thousand euro (€10,000) per project.

The objectives of the grant are to:

- provide children and students who attend Klabb 3-16 with professional cultural and artistic experiences of the highest quality;
- allow students to engage with skills and topics that are relevant to their age group through the arts;
- encourage creative practitioners to create and develop new work for young audiences and increase the programming capacity over longer periods with the purpose of fostering arts awareness amongst children.

Requirements in line with Arts Council Malta's ongoing Strategy

In line with its commitment to supporting the arts through its sustainable and accountable approach to public investment, ACM draws applicants' attention to the following in line with its Strategy 2030.

Applicants are required to consider the [Right to Culture – Resource Pack](#) when developing their proposal in relation to how they engage with communities and the considerations of everyone's cultural rights in their work. The resource pack is aimed at increasing awareness regarding inclusivity and supporting the implementation of cultural rights in our day-to-day practice.

Applicants are also required to consider the [Charter for the Status of the Artist](#) when proposing their operational and programming activities to ensure acceptable and decent working conditions for artists and creative practitioners which embraces 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

Activities falling within the cultural and creative sector:

1. Arts (literature, visual arts, music, performing arts, interdisciplinary)
2. Creative Business Services (design, architecture, cultural tourism and cultural services)
3. Heritage (crafts, traditional festivals and celebrations, cultural sites, antiques)
4. Media (publishing and printed material, audiovisuals, including film and video production, film servicing, television, video games, radio, online media).

Applicant

- An applicant may be an individual artist or creative practitioner.
The applicant takes the leading role and should fulfil the Eligibility Criteria in Section 3. If selected, the successful applicant shall carry out the project as per the agreed proposal following the development period and have the main legal responsibility for managing the project as the Beneficiary. Applicants cannot be employees of Arts Council Malta, the Foundation for Educational Services, or be involved in the management of the *Klabb 3-16 Grant*.

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 grant. 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 who does not carry out an economic activity and as a result is not registered for VAT, has the duty to ascertain that they will receive a fiscal receipt for the goods and services received.

Creative Professionals

- All artistic and creative individuals professionally active in the cultural and creative sectors. The proposed creative practitioner/s must not be a full-time employee of the applicant school/college or entity collaborating in the proposed project, or full-time/ part-time employees of FES.

Disbursement of Funds

- The grant will be disbursed as indicated on page 2 of these guidelines and regulations. A payment will be issued on behalf of the applicant. The applicant must have an active bank account when submitting the application.

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 shall not be processed further and shall not undergo evaluation.

Evaluators

- Arts Council Malta appoints a team of sectorial experts for each call within this scheme. The appointed board may be composed of local or foreign professionals.

Evaluation

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

Formal education

- Formal education includes primary, lower and upper secondary, post-secondary and tertiary education leading to a recognised certification, degree, diploma or professional qualifications.

Non-formal education

- Informal education encompasses any formation programmes occurring outside the structured curriculum. This can occur within formal education institutions such as schools or other institutions such as museums.

Innovative pedagogical approaches

- Innovative pedagogical approaches refer to theories and methods of learning which seek to develop upon established norms to engage with the contemporary needs of students and teachers.

Local community

- Local community refers to a group of people residing or interacting in a common space and who share a set of social, economic, geographical, and cultural resources.

Management and administration:

- Arts Council Malta is responsible for the management of this grant. All official correspondence, including the online 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 (eg. track records, portfolios, artistic CVs, official correspondence confirming rental of space, permits or other).

Maximum funding:

- There is a ceiling amount of €10,000 per project to be allocated. This 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 (MICAS), Jesuits Church Foundation, De Valette Chamber Orchestra, Festivals Malta, and National Agency for Performing Arts.

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.

3. Eligibility

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

Maximum eligible timeframe to implement the project: Scholastic year 2026/27.

3.1 Who can apply?

Applicants under this call must qualify as:

- Creative professionals/individual artists.

Assistance under this call constitutes State aid.. Kindly refer to Section 9 of these guidelines and regulations for information regarding the applicability of State aid rules to applicants/projects.

The applicant must be Maltese citizen or be in possession of a Malta residence permit or of a Maltese citizenship certificate or of a Maltese passport.

The applicant shall assign a staff member or one of the collaborators as project coordinator to act as liaison person with Arts Council Malta and be responsible for project implementation. The applicant may also use funds to engage an external coordinator.

3.2 Who cannot apply?

- Applicants/activities receiving local public funds through established government line-votes.
- Applicants who do not qualify under the definition of applicant for this specific call.
- Applicants whose profile is not verified due to it being an incomplete profile for not having the below mandatory documents:
 - a copy of a Maltese ID card (front and back sides) or your Maltese, residence permit or your Maltese citizenship certificate or a Maltese passport;
 - a signed statute in the case of a voluntary organisation.
- 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.

3.3 What costs can be covered¹

This grant may cover up to 100% of the following costs (up to a maximum of €10,000 per project, whichever is the lowest).

- Artistic fees
- Contingency, not exceeding 10% of the total cost
- Digital initiatives including but not limited to subscription to software, service providers and creation of online resources
- Health and safety measures
- Hire/purchase of equipment (purchase of equipment will only be considered if deemed necessary to the project)
- 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)
- Insurance
- Marketing, PR and communications (not exceeding 10% of project total these may include but is not limited to photography and videography which may be used for the young artists' portfolio)
- Other fees directly related to project implementation (including but not limited to legal, service providers, participation fees, linguistic fees etc.)
- Project management (including but not limited to administration, coordination and/or development)

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

- Rental of spaces
- Standard accommodation (excluding long-term rental or part of)
- Travel (economy class) including but not limited to public transport, air travel, car/vehicle rental)
- Travel VISA.

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?

- 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 which are already covered through usual operational budgets (space which is owned by the applicant or the partner/supporting organisation/individual).
- Funding for the creation or upholding of bursaries, contests, competitions, prizes or scholarships.
- Fees for services provided by Public Cultural Organisations or other public agency, Government department or Ministry.
- Recoverable VAT, where applicable
- Reimbursement of salaries or part of
- Retroactive costs
- Subsistence, catering and hospitality.

3.5 Eligible productions and activities

Applications must consist of artistic projects designed to tour across the Klabb 3-16 centres and produced specifically with the active participation of children aged between 3 and 6. Projects should be such that they can be put up within the limitations of the FES centres (classrooms, yards, and halls/gyms).

The projects should take the form of touring productions or activities that can be held across the 38 centres of Klabb 3-16. The whole performance and/or activity must be a minimum of one hour long, at a minimum of six sessions. The amount of performances/activities to be held, should be indicated at application stage. Projects will be held in the afternoons, during Klabb 3-16's operating hours (between 3pm and 5pm). A class playworker will be present to assist those delivering the activity.

Eligible productions and activities may include the following:

- Visual arts and crafts;
- Performing arts;
- Music;
- Literature and storytelling;
- Film and media arts;
- Digital arts.

Interactivity and participatory engagement are compulsory. This must be embedded in the delivery of the production and/or activity itself.

Existing activities offered to schools and/or students free of charge, are excluded from this initiative and therefore not considered eligible.

A maximum budget of ten thousand euro (€10,000) may be allocated per project, following an assessment of the proposed budget and costings. A maximum of five proposals will be selected.

Producers need to identify specifications required from the venue, suitability for age groups, and suitability for students with learning difficulties, and accessibility to and inside the venue. Any restrictions imposed by the Superintendent of Public Health are to be strictly adhered to.

Applicants must submit recordings and portfolios for this call if the proposed work is not a new production.

The content of the proposed productions must engage with relevant themes, including but not limited to:

- Identity & Belonging
- Exploring self-expression, emotions, family, and community in ways children can relate to.
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Celebrating differences in culture, language, gender, and abilities through storytelling and play
- Wellbeing & Healthy Living
- Encouraging physical, emotional, and social wellbeing
- Environment & Sustainability
- Discovering nature, caring for the planet, and understanding simple concepts of sustainability.
- Creativity & Expression
- Engaging with music, movement, visual arts, and imaginative storytelling.
- Communication & Language
- Developing listening, speaking, and early literacy skills through interactive artistic experiences.
- Ethics & Social Values
- Introducing kindness, fairness, respect, and cooperation through creative narratives.
- Exploration & Discovery
- Stimulating curiosity about the world (e.g., sound, body, senses) through playful, arts-based learning.

3.6 What applications are not eligible?

- Activities receiving local public funds through established Government line-votes.
- Activities that are not related to culture, arts and the creative industries.
- Activities whose objective is fundraising or political propaganda.
- Applications submitted after noon (12:00) of the respective day of deadline.
- Applications for funding the creation or upholding of contests, competitions, bursaries, prizes, or scholarships.
- Events held on a regular basis, including annual projects, annual festivals, school/annual shows, regular training programmes, prize-days, publications, art and craft exhibitions etc. However, yearly projects may be used as platforms to present the work developed through the grant
- Incomplete applications as explained under Section 5.1 – Checklist of these guidelines.
- Individual modules credited as part of an education course or research as part of established academic programmes.

- 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 which are already funded by other national or EU-funded programmes.
- Projects whose duration does not entirely fall within the eligible timeframe.
- School-visits abroad unless the institution makes a strong case that these are an essential part of the project.
- Student exchanges.
- Training programmes required to renew professional licenses or accreditations.

Any other activity which may be developed outside the scope of the Klabb 3-16 Grant are 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 impact on students' personal development and active engagement in creativity and the arts. Proposals should explore innovative concepts for the engagement of students in a creative environment (this should also include evidence on how the proposal considers the principles within the Right to Culture – Resource Kit and the Charter for the Status of the Artist as in Section 1).

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

- Projects that call on the students' creative skills in engaging within the projects' processes, from the planning and development stage to the implementation of the project itself. The use of newly acquired skills and techniques as well as teamwork and inclusivity to reach creative objectives set through the project will be considered. (20 marks)
- Projects that involve students in the creative process. The use of creativity and exposure to new art forms, skills and techniques as well as teamwork and inclusivity to reach creative objectives set through the project will be considered. (15 marks)
- What are the plans beyond the implementation of this proposal? (5 marks)

4.2 Criterion 2: Project management (20 marks)

This criterion considers the opportunities for students to participate and contribute during each phase.

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

- Proposals which maximise the student artistic development opportunities. (10 marks)
- Projects which help to develop students' creative skills, including new ways of carrying out tasks, exploring different perspectives and problem solving and respond to the different needs and capabilities of students while offering different learning methods and pedagogies. (5 marks)
- Projects which expose students to different application of the arts, which may increase participation in the arts at school as well as within the community. Such projects may also increase opportunities for students who do not usually engage in arts or cultural activities. (5 marks)

4.3 Criterion 3: Audience engagement (20 marks)

This criterion considers the creation of new networks and collaborations as well as the development of existing ones.

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

- Collaborations with one or more identified creative practitioners to maximise the potential outcomes of the project. This criterion will consider the level of collaborations proposed as well as their relevance to the development and implementation of the creative project proposed. (10 marks)
- Projects which encourage interaction between students, the institution, the local community and the artistic scene. (10 marks)

4.4 Criterion 4: Budget (20 marks)

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

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

- Please provide a clear budget breakdown including expenses directly related to the proposed project. 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 call.
3. Press the [link](#) that will take you to the online application system.
4. 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 call you intend to apply.
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 fund 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 Council's representatives will not be checking your application forms. It is solely at the Council's discretion to request that applicants provide any missing mandatory documentation following the call deadline.

Upon the 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 the Council.

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 Maltese VAT certificate of registration, if applicable
- Applicant biography/artistic CV to be included in the applicant profile
- Audiovisuals/portfolio showing the applicant's work, as relevant to the proposal. (Audiovisuals up to 5MB may be uploaded directly in the application form. Larger files these may be provided as a link)
- An audio or audiovisual file not exceeding 5 minutes in which the applicant provides a short description, a rationale and / or motivation for submitting this proposal
- Letters of intent from collaborators and partners, as well as potential venues, such as the hosting Klabb 3-16 centres.
- Protection of minor clearances where applicable. If not available upon application, the Police conduct will suffice upon application. The POMA clearance must be submitted prior to the implementation of the project.
- Quotations and supporting material, if available.

6. Evaluation process

This call is competitive and will be evaluated by a board 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.

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 Malta Arts Council on the basis of their professional experience. The Council 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 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, kindly 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 Fund administrators, managers 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. Arts Council Malta 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 remaining 30% will be disbursed after the submission of the final report by the beneficiary, following approval by the Council.

The beneficiaries must use the 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 the Council immediately if changes affecting the nature of the project take place during implementation. Changes cannot be implemented unless approval is received. The Council 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 the Council's representatives for monitoring purposes, both during the implementation of the project as well as after its completion.

The Council 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's 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 high resolution photos and videos, relevant marketing, publicity or information material developed for the funded project. Beneficiaries will also be requested to submit evidence of the research process which should include visual documentation, blogs and other documentation.

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

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

The Council 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 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 use our complaints procedure, then you would be 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

State aid rules applicable to undertakings that carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU

This 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:
 - (i) 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;
 - (ii) where the aid is conditional on being partly or entirely passed on to primary producers;
- 5) aid granted to 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;
- 6) aid will furthermore 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* State Aid 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 within twenty working days following the grant of the aid.

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').

Need advice?

Art Council Malta 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. To make the best of our services, plan ahead and get in touch with us at least two weeks before the submission deadline.

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 05th June 2026