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# A Quick Guide To EU Funding

## 2014-2020



## **Introduction**

The EU Funding Guide for Local Councils and NGOs has been published in order to help the Local Councils and NGOs in Malta to improve their knowledge on EU Funding and boost their interest in applying for EU Funds.

It is a tool for providing information with an interest in EU Funding for the period 2014-2020, such as the programme details, beneficiaries, budget and links for more information.

### **➤ Europe 2020 strategy**

Europe 2020 strategy sets the common objectives for all the European funding pro-programmes focusing on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Europe 2020, that follows the Lisbon strategy, is addressed to overcome the current crisis. Adopted in 2010, this strategy aims at funding the EU's economy on knowledge and innovation and making it low-carbon and resource-efficient as well as establishing high employment rate that contributes to social and territorial cohesion.

### **➤ The multiannual financial framework 2014-2020**

On 1 January 2014, a new programming EU funding started for a 7-year cycle with a budget of € 960 billion.

### **➤ What are EU funds?**

The EU funds can roughly be divided into three types: structural and investment funds, programmes and initiatives and third country funds. The types of financing from the EU budget can vary. EU funds are mostly allocated through grants awarded on the basis of calls for proposals, in which different actors compete for the support of the EU. Two types of grants can be distinguished: action grants for projects with a limited lifetime during which proposed specific activities are implemented; and operating grants providing financial support for the regular work and activities of an organisation.

The EU acknowledges that local and regional stakeholders are important actors for change. The new period of EU funds offers opportunity for public actors at the local and regional level to initiate and implement projects and actions on the local level. Support may include measures, such as capacity building, funding of Programmes for decent work, social inclusion and anti-discrimination, the establishment of local sustainable development initiatives, or investments into local infrastructures.

## **How can you apply for funding if you are an NGO?**

Non-governmental and civil society organisations are a natural target group eligible for a vast part of EU funding, as they are involved in many areas covered by EU policies on a non-profit basis, a precondition for receiving funding from EU coffers.

- It is difficult to find an EU Programme which would not, in one way or another, include a funding opportunity for NGOs. Funding is available both under Programmes run by national and local authorities which are financed through the Structural Funds, and under Commission-run Programmes.
- In practical terms, your NGO may receive two types of funding. You may submit a proposal for a concrete project under an EU Programme which covers your area of activity and, if successful, this particular project will be co-financed by the EU through an action grant.

## **How can you apply for funding if you are a Public Body?**

Public bodies, including Local Councils (Local Authorities), can benefit from many EU funding opportunities, ranging from investments to develop the institutional capacity and efficiency of public services, to local infrastructure projects. Below are just a few examples of the many options available.



**Horizon 2020** is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. The EU's new Programme for research and innovation is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe.

Horizon 2020 will tackle societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market by, for example, helping innovative enterprise to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with real commercial potential. This market-driven approach will include creating partnerships with the private sector and Member States to bring together the resources needed.

International cooperation will be an important cross-cutting priority of Horizon 2020. In addition to Horizon 2020 being fully open to international participation, targeted actions with key partner countries and regions will focus on the EU's strategic priorities.

## Who may apply?

For standard research projects – a consortium of at least three legal entities. Each entity must be established in an EU Member State or an Associated Country.

For other programmes – European Research Council (ERC), SME Instrument, the co-funding of national or public sector calls or programmes, coordination and support, training and mobility– the minimum condition for participation is one legal entity established in a Member State or in an Associated Country.

**Budget:** €80 billion

**Website:** <http://ec.europa.eu/horizon2020>

## Contact Point in Malta:

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2014 - 2020 programme for Education,  
Training, Youth, and Sport

The Erasmus+ programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising Education, Training, and Youth work. The seven year programme will have a budget of €14.7 billion; a 40% increase compared to current spending

levels, reflecting the EU's commitment to investing in these areas.

Erasmus+ will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad.

Erasmus+ will support transnational partnerships among Education, Training, and Youth institutions and organisations to foster cooperation and bridge the worlds of Education and work in order to tackle the skills gaps we are facing in Europe.

It will also support national efforts to modernise Education, Training, and Youth systems. In the field of Sport, there will be support for grassroots projects and cross-border challenges such as combating match-fixing, doping, violence and racism.

### Who may apply?

The Erasmus+ Programme is open to all EU Member States and partner countries specified under Article 24 of the Erasmus+ Regulation.

There are two types of actor that can benefit from the Erasmus+ programmes:

Any private or public body active in the field of education, training, youth and sport (including groups of young people active in youth work but not necessarily in the context of youth organisations, also referred to as informal groups of young people) participants, i.e. individuals participating in the programme.

These could be students, trainees, apprentices, pupils, adult learners, young people, volunteers, professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, etc. (Job seekers are excluded from this programme, and covered by the ESF)

For both participants and participating organisations, the conditions for participation depend on the country in which they are based.

**Budget:** €14.7 billion

**Website:** <http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus>

### Contact Point in Malta:

European Union Programmes Agency

Continental Business Centre Railway Road, Santa Venera

Tel: 00356 25586130

[eupa@gov.mt](mailto:eupa@gov.mt)



## EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

Europe for Citizens aims to promote active European citizenship with the main scope of bridging the gap between citizens and the European Union through financial instruments that promote active European citizenship. It intends to encourage cooperation between citizens and organisations from different countries and facilitate the development of a sense of belonging to common European ideals and to promote the process of European integration.

The programme aims to address the need for more genuine debates on EU's related issues at the local, regional and national levels, which can be translated into a pan-European perspective.

### Who may apply?

Website: [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en)

### Contact Point in Malta:

Office of the Parliamentary Secretariat for Local Government

Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government

Therese Spiteri

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## CREATIVE EUROPE

Creative Europe programme gives support to safeguard and promote the European cultural and linguistic diversity and support to strengthen the competitiveness of the sector.

### Creative Europe Objectives are:

- To support the capacity of the European cultural and creative sectors to operate transnational;
- To promote the transnational circulation of cultural and creative works and operators and reach new audiences in Europe and beyond;
- To strengthen the financial capacity of the cultural and creative sectors, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises and organisations;
- To support transnational policy cooperation in order to foster policy development, innovation, audience building and new business models.

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe>

Contact Points:

<http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/creative-europe-desks>



## LIFE

The new LIFE Programme has two sub-programmes: one for Environment and one for Climate Action. The creation of a sub-programme for Climate Action upgrades the former thematic strand “climate change” under the LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance component. LIFE Programme is a catalyst for promoting implementation and integration of environmental and climate objectives in other policies and Member State practice.

The objectives of the programme are: to contribute to the shift towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss; to improve the development, implementation and enforcement of EU’s environmental and climate policy and legislation; to support better environmental and climate governance at all levels.

**Website:** <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/lifeplus.htm>

## **ERDF - EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

The ERDF is the biggest single source of EU funding. The central aim of the ERDF is to reinforce economic, social and territorial cohesion by encouraging the sustainable development and structural adjustment of regional economies.

The thematic objectives of the ERDF touch upon a broad spectrum of areas, under which projects and activities can be funded: research & innovation, ICT, competitiveness of SMEs, low carbon economy, climate change adaptation and risk management, environmental protection and resource efficiency, sustainable transport, employment, social and educational infrastructure, social inclusion and anti-discrimination, institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders.

Each region (or Member State) agrees with the Commission on an operational programme for the implementation of the funds.

### **Who may apply?**

A wide range of actors is eligible for funding by the ERDF:

- local, regional and national authorities and administrative bodies
- social, cultural and educational institutions, NGOs, companies, SMEs including micro-enterprises and Social Economy Enterprises, and associations

**Website:** [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm)

### **Contact Point in Malta:**

Planning and Priorities Coordination Division  
Ministry for European Affairs and  
Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto

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## **ESF EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND**

The ESF is the central tool for the implementation of the EU's social and labour market policy. It invests in the EU's human capital and works by funding local, regional and national

projects targeting poverty, decent work and inclusion in the whole of the EU. In the new funding period 2014-2020, the ESF will focus on four central goals: creating decent work, promoting social inclusion, supporting better training and education and improving the quality of public administration. The activities of the ESF can be summarised into four central fields of action:

- The thematic objective “promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility”
- The thematic objective “promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination”
- The thematic objectives “investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning”
- The thematic objective “enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration”

### **Who may apply?**

A variety of bodies and organisations can become beneficiaries of ESF support:

- Social, cultural and educational organisations
- Workers' and employers' organisations, as well as organisations providing training, support for workers, labour market support
- NGOs and charities
- Public administrations and municipal institutions
- Companies and associations

**Website:** <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/>

### **Contact Point in Malta:**

Planning and Priorities Co-ordination Division,  
Office of the Prime Minister

**Tel:** +356 22001142

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## **INTERREG EUROPE 2014-2020**

The Interreg Europe Programme aims at improving regional development policies and programmes. It focuses on 4 themes: research and innovation; SMEs competitiveness; Low carbon economy; environment and resource efficiency.

### **Who may apply?**

This programme is eligible for regional and local authorities, agencies, research institutes, thematic policy organisations, as well as for the managing authorities of the structural funds Programmes.

**Budget:** €359 million

**Website:** [www.interreg4c.eu](http://www.interreg4c.eu)

### **Contact Point in Malta:**

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Funds and Programmes Division  
Office of the Prime Minister  
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## **MED PROGRAMME & INTERREG MED 2014-2020**

The MED Programme is a transnational programme of European territorial cooperation. It is financed by the European Union as an instrument of its regional policy. The transnational setup allows the programme to tackle territorial challenges beyond national boundaries, such as environmental risk management, international business or transport corridors.

### **Who may apply?**

This programme is eligible for regional and local authorities, agencies, research institutes, thematic policy organisations, and others.

The INTERREG MED Programme is currently under discussion by the EC but all the relevant information will be uploaded on the programme website, once available.

**Website:** <http://www.programmemed.eu/en>

### **Contact Point in Malta:**

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## ENI CBC MED 2014-2020

The ENI CBC “Mediterranean Sea Basin” Programme is under preparation. The Joint Monitoring Committee, a body composed of 14 countries – Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia – is responsible for designing the strategy and implementing modalities of the new Programme.

The new Programme will be structured in two overarching objectives declined in four thematic objectives (*“Business and SMEs development”, ‘Support to education, research, technological development and innovation’, ‘Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty’, ‘Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation’*) and eleven priorities. The strategy adopted could be amended during the preparation phase of the Programme and until its final approval by the European Commission.

**Budget:** € 209 million

**Website:** [www.enpicbmed.eu](http://www.enpicbmed.eu)

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# Who are we?

## Europe Direct Information Centre

EUROPE DIRECT is a service to help you find answers  
to your questions about the European Union

Freephone number (\*):

00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11

(\* Certain mobile telephone operators do not allow access to 00 800 numbers or these calls may be billed



## **Europe Direct Information Centre- Central Region**

The Europe Direct Information Centres (EDICs) form part of the Europe Direct Information Network, a free information service on the EU. It complements the role of the European Commission and EU Representations in disseminating information and serving as a bridge between the EU institutions and the public.

EDIC Central Region aims at keeping the society informed about various EU related topics and inform the citizens about their rights through:

- organisation of workshop and seminars;
- dissemination of electronic newsletters;
- dissemination of publications and brochures;
- post regular updates to the dedicated website and FB page;
- answer and respond to emails, telephone or face to face questions and requests

We provide free information and publications on the EU including awareness of EU institutions, policies, legislation, programmes and funding opportunities.

**There are 3 EDICs in Malta which you can contact:**

### **EDIC Central Region**

**Address:** Local Government Building,  
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