

Access Support Programme

Guidelines and Regulations



**ARTS
COUNCIL
MALTA**

ISSUED: FEBRUARY 2025

ALLOCATIONS

SESSION BUDGET	MAXIMUM GRANT PER PROPOSAL
EUR 50,000	EUR 5,000

CO-FUNDING	DISBURSEMENT
The support may cover up to 100% of the total expenditure	70% upon signing of grant agreement 30% following approval of final report

TIMEFRAMES

DEADLINE	RESULTS	ELIGIBLE TIMEFRAME
8th April 2025	15th May 2025	16th May 2025 to 15th December 2026

1. Introduction

The Access Support programme forms part of a portfolio of initiatives designed to facilitate creative and cultural engagement.

This programme is aimed at enabling the cultural and creative sectors to become more accessible and adopting the highest standards of good practice, combining equity with quality.

This programme invests in accessibility plans, with a special focus on people, resources, facilities, training, mentoring, technical assistance, services, and infrastructure.

In line with Strategy 2025, and with ACM's commitment to support the arts, adopting a sustainable and accountable approach to public investment, ACM would like to draw applicants' attention to the following requirements:

In the development of their proposal, applicants are required to follow the guidance provided in the [Right to Culture – Resource Pack](#), with particular regard to community engagement and the adoption of a rights-based approach to their work.

The resource pack is aimed at increasing awareness with regard to diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging, and at supporting the implementation of cultural rights in day-to-day practice.

When proposing operational and programming activities, applicants are also required to give due consideration to the [Charter for the Status of the Artist](#), to ensure acceptable and decent working conditions for artists and practitioners in the cultural and creative sectors, embracing artistic freedom, accessibility, formal/informal/non-formal skill recognition, decent socio-economic conditions, non-discrimination and equity, ethical considerations, and adherence to intellectual property rights and international labour law.

The Charter for the Status of the Artist is meant to provide a dynamic frame of reference for any legislation, policy, or initiative which directly or indirectly impacts artists and cultural and creative sectors, ensuring that any action is aligned with the ultimate long-term vision of elevating the status of artists in Malta in line with their tangible value to society.

2. Definitions

Access

- ACM is committed towards the mainstreaming of cultural participation, access, and enjoyment. In this regard, the Access Support programme adopts a beyond-projects-towards-practices approach to accessibility—expanding discourse, investment, and practice towards the development of accessibility plans, capacity-building and sustainable practices. This programme invests in Accessibility Plans, including elements relating to accessible events management, cultural mediation, accessibility training, resources, facilities, services, art hives, and infrastructure to enable and enhance cultural experiences for all.

Accessible events management

- The process of making activities and projects accessible. It involves:
 - The identification of possible barriers to access faced by particular groups;
 - The development of strategies and plans to improve accessibility;
 - The overseeing of the implementation of the accessibility;
 - The assessment of the accessibility.

Applicant

- An applicant may be an individual, a group, or an organisation. Applicants cannot be employees of Arts Council Malta or involved in the management of the Access Support programme.

Application

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

Art hive

- A space, facilitated by one or more artists, welcoming people to engage in art making as a means of supporting belonging, learning from each other, creative expression, healing, and well-being.

Beneficiary

- The beneficiary is the recipient of the grant. The beneficiary is legally responsible for the implementation of the proposal supported by the programme. The beneficiary of the grant may not be changed throughout the duration of the funded plan 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, the beneficiary has the duty to ascertain that they will receive a fiscal receipt for the goods and services received.

Community

- A group of people who share values, customs, identities, or practices.

Cooperatives

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

Cultural mediator

- In the migration context, a professional who facilitates communication (including interpretation) between people speaking different languages or coming from different cultural backgrounds.

Disbursement of funds

- The grant will be disbursed as indicated on page 2 of these guidelines and regulations. The applicant must have a bank account when submitting the application.

Diversity

- Individual differences in terms of age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, ethnicity, culture, belief, language, and socio-economic background with regard to communities, creatives, and audiences.

Eligibility

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

Evaluation

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

Group

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

Individual

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

Management and administration

- Arts Council Malta is responsible for the management of this programme. All official correspondence, including the online submission of applications and any updates to awarded proposals, 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 proposal.

Maximum funding

- There is a ceiling amount of €5,000 per proposal. 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 the National Agency for the Performing Arts.

Registered entities

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

Single undertaking

- Includes 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 substantive eligibility. Ineligible proposals in terms of the points below will not be processed further and will not undergo evaluation.

Maximum eligible time frame to implement the Accessibility Plan: **18 months**.

3.1 Who can apply?

This programme supports Accessibility Plans, with a special focus on people, resources, facilities, training, mentoring, technical assistance, services, and infrastructure, while facilitating creative and cultural engagement.

This programme offers two options: a State aid option and a non-State aid option. The State aid option is available to undertakings that carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU, for which assistance will be granted in line with the *de minimis* Regulation.¹ The non-State aid option is available to applicants who do not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU, as well as to proposals that do not involve such an economic activity. Kindly refer to Section 9 of these guidelines for additional information.

Furthermore, applicants must qualify as one of the following:

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

¹ 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.

3.2 Who cannot apply?

The following are not eligible to apply for the Access Support Scheme:

- Applicants/proposals receiving local public funds through established Government line-votes.
- Applicants who do not qualify under the definition of “Applicant” for this specific scheme.
- Applicants whose profile is not verified due to it being an incomplete profile for not having the below mandatory documents:
 - a copy of your Maltese ID card (including the front and back side), or your Maltese residence permit, or your Maltese citizenship certificate, or your Maltese passport;
 - a signed statute in the case of a voluntary organisation.
- Beneficiaries who have not submitted or completed at least one final report related to a previous grant funded by Arts Council Malta within the established timeframes.
- Beneficiaries who have not honoured previous funding commitments.
- In the case of registered entities, applicants who have not presented the required annual documentation to the Malta Business Registry.
- In the case of voluntary organisations, applicants which:
 - are not enrolled with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations;
 - have not presented their updated accounts to the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations;
 - do not have a registered address in the Maltese Islands.

3.3 What expenses can be covered?

This grant may cover up to 100% of the following expenses (up to a maximum of €5,000 per proposal, whichever is the lowest).

- Accessibility training, professional development, shadowing;
- Accessible events management;
- Accessibility infrastructure, mobility aids for visitor use;
- Art hives set-ups;
- Assistive technologies, including:
 - Rental of technological equipment;
 - Rental of software;
 - Purchase of equipment, hardware, software;
- Childcare, adult dependent care, senior adult care;
- Communication/experience support (linguistic, cultural, sensory, physical) including:
 - Communication assistant;
 - Production of easy-read text;
 - Speech elements enhancement (unclear speech, dialect);
 - Interpretation, including sign language interpretation;
 - Translation, localisation, revision, editing;

- Linguistic and/or cultural mediation;
- Assistive listening devices, transcription, captioning;
- Audio production, voice-over, dubbing;
- Audio description, Braille;
- Multimodality, multisensory tours, tactile exhibits, 3D printing;
- Counselling, therapy services directly related to the proposed Accessibility Plan;
- Off-site events, transportation (including persons, exhibits, props);
- Other expenses related to increased accessibility to the recipient of the grant, and/or to wider communities;
- Relaxed performances;
- Support worker, attendant care.

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 expenses cannot be covered?

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

3.5 What applications are not eligible?

The following applications are **not** eligible under this Fund:

- Applications for activities of an intrinsically self-sustainable nature;
- Applications for activities whose objective is fundraising or political propaganda;
- Applications for funding the creation or upholding of contests, competitions, bursaries, prizes, or scholarships;
- Applications which do not clearly justify that the expense applied for is not usually incurred to increase accessibility to culture and the arts;
- Applications submitted after noon (12:00) of the respective day of deadline;
- Applications submitted by public entities with or without a line vote;

- Applications for expenses related to traditional activities and festivities;
- Applications for expenses that are not eligible under the Access Support programme;
- Incomplete applications. Refer to application checklist in Section 5.1;
- Implementation that would have already started and/or taken place before the result is notified to applicant(s)
- Implementation that does not entirely fall within the eligible time frame.

Any other application covering an activity which may be developed outside the scope of the Access Support mechanism is not eligible for support.

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

4. Evaluation

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

4.1 Criterion 1: Quality and Suitability of proposal (40 marks)

This criterion reflects the quality of the proposal, the clarity of the aims and objectives, and the extent to which the proposal matches the objectives of the Access Support Programme:

- Please explain how your proposed plan is focused on accessibility throughout the designing and development of the plan—including stocktaking of access needs (by means of access riders, reasonable adjustments, community consultation); financial planning; management of accessibility budgets). (10 marks)
- How does the proposed Accessibility Plan give due consideration to the guidance provided in the *Right to Culture – Resource Pack*, and to the Charter for the Status of the Artist, as required in Section 1 of these guidelines? (10 marks)
- Please define the aims, objectives, and expected outcomes of the proposed Accessibility Plan. (10 marks)
- How is the proposed Accessibility Plan relevant to your artistic development and the development of the cultural and creative sectors and of the community at large? (10 marks)

4.2 Criterion 2: Management (20 marks)

This criterion reflects the level of commitment shown in the proposal and the soundness of the proposed plan to deliver and achieve the aims and targets of the Accessibility Plan. This includes the main collaborator(s) involved and their track records.

- Please submit a framework for the delivery of the proposed Accessibility Plan. (Kindly include step-by-step time frames, methodology, workplans, respective

- roles and responsibilities, skill sets, track record, portfolios, logistics plans, as applicable). (10 marks)
- What is the degree of flexibility in the planning, given the risks and uncertainties? What are the mitigation measures envisaged in view of the identified risks? (e.g. contingency plans, risk assessments, health and safety measures, possible adjustments that may take place). (5 marks)
 - Are there any necessary permits, copyright issues and other legal, ethical, and administrative matters to be addressed? (5 marks)

4.3 Criterion 3: Community and Audience Engagement (20 marks)

This criterion reflects the engagement of communities and of established and new audiences, as well as dissemination plans. 'Engagement' refers to the role, the nature of involvement, and the experience offered to communities and audiences. 'Dissemination' refers to the methods adopted by the applicant to spread the deliverables of the proposed Accessibility Plan.

- Please elaborate on the core audiences (internal and/or external) envisaged, and on how these audiences will be reached. (10 marks)
- Please provide an outline of the marketing, PR, and communications plan as applicable to the proposed Accessibility Plan, explaining why you opted for your chosen methods. 'Communications plan' also includes internal dissemination, which may not be at a public level. (10 marks)

4.4 Criterion 4: Budget (20 marks)

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

- Please provide a clear budget breakdown, including expenses directly related to the proposed Accessibility Plan. Kindly explain the rationale for the expenses of the proposed Accessibility Plan. (20 marks)

5. Submitting the application

Follow these steps to apply:

1. Read these guidelines and regulations very carefully.
2. Check whether your proposed idea can be addressed by this scheme.
3. Press the [link](#) that will take you to the online application system.
4. If you do not have a profile, create your profile with Arts Council Malta by clicking on 'Register' and filling in the details. Applicants are required to register a profile on the ACM's CRM at least two weeks prior to the deadline of the call.
5. From the open calls section, select the online application for the scheme 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 be receiving 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 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. To enable us to process and evaluate your application, please present all the necessary information and documentation.

Prior to the application deadline, Arts Council Malta representatives will not be able to check application forms. Following the deadline of the call, it is solely at Arts Council Malta's discretion to request that applicants provide any missing mandatory documentation.

Upon submission of the application, applicants accept that, should the application be awarded funding, the name, the title of the proposal, a short description of the proposal, and the amount awarded may be published by Arts Council Malta.

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

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

5.1 Checklist

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

- A copy of the VAT certificate of Registration;
- A *de minimis* declaration form, as 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);
- 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;
- Letters of intent from collaborators;
- When relevant, acceptance letter by institution, platform, or venue.

6. Evaluation process

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

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

Nevertheless, the evaluation session and funding decisions depend on the quality of the submitted proposals as well as the availability of the funds. Therefore, obtaining 60 marks or more does not automatically mean that your proposal has been successful. Furthermore, the Evaluation Board may decide not to allocate the total funds available for a particular call if the proposals do not reach the required level in terms of the scheme criteria.

Eligible applications will be assessed by an evaluation team selected by the Arts Council Malta on the basis of their independent and professional experience. The evaluators will present an assessment of each proposal, 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 Arts Council Malta. Together with the covering letter, Arts Council Malta will also attach a copy of the feedback form, indicating the reasons and marks leading to the Evaluation Board's decision, according to the Scheme criteria.

The order of classification of the proposals, according to the marks allocated by the evaluators will be published online. Only the names and summaries of the successful proposals will be published; in the case of proposals 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 the application.

All information received by the Scheme administrators, managers, and evaluators will be considered confidential, both during and after the evaluation process. Provisions on data protection and confidentiality for successful proposals will be included in the Grant agreement.

7. 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 Scheme will be signed. The grant may only be awarded upon completion of the above process within the established timeframe.

A portion of 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 Arts Council Malta.

The beneficiaries must use the Council's official logo on all related material and specify that the Accessibility Plan 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 supported Accessibility Plan 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 supported Accessibility Plan 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 supported Accessibility Plan and 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 implementation, you will be required to submit a detailed report highlighting the work carried out and the achievements of the supported Accessibility, by not later than six (6) weeks after the completion of your implementation. Arts Council Malta will provide a template for your report. If relevant, together with this report, beneficiaries must submit copies of any relevant marketing, publicity, or information material developed for the funded Accessibility. Beneficiaries will also be requested to submit evidence of the research process, which includes visual documentation (a minimum of 5, high-res images should be submitted), 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 material about the supported Accessibility.

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

We want to foster and support cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to ensure sustainable development and well-being. And we want to be fair. When you believe something went wrong, we want to hear about it so that we can address it and improve how we do things.

Filing a complaint will not affect your chances of receiving support from Arts Council Malta in the future. Confidentiality is really important to us. All complaints you choose to make will be treated with confidentiality.

8.1 Grounds for complaints

As an applicant, you may file a formal complaint regarding procedural anomalies and irregularities linked to the submission process and the evaluation process—in terms of the procedures stipulated in these guidelines and regulations.

We cannot process complaints relating to:

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

We can process only complaints filed by the applicants concerning their proposal.

8.2 Filing a complaint

We would need your formal complaint to be presented as clearly as possible, in writing. Please state the grounds and the reasons for your complaint, providing a detailed explanation and justification supported by relevant documentation or testimonials as to why you believe that the procedure/s stipulated in these guidelines and regulations or in standard good governance rules and regulations governing the public sector went wrong. The decision at the end of the complaint process will be final. Please address your complaint to the Director of Funding and Strategy within five (5) working days of

receipt of your funding decision. You will normally receive a reply to your complaint within ten (10) working days.

If after our final response you are still dissatisfied with the outcome, Arts Council Malta will convene a board that will discuss your complaint further. When you approach our complaints procedure, we may need to use information about your proposal to address your complaint. The decision of the board is final.

9. Applicability of State Aid rules

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.

This Regulation applies to aid granted to undertakings in all sectors, with the exception of:

1. aid granted to undertakings active in the primary production of fishery and aquaculture products;
2. aid granted to 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. aid granted to undertakings active in the primary production of agricultural products;
4. aid granted to 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 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* rule including that received 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 form indicating any other *de minimis* aid received or applied for during the previous three years. 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 for 10 years from the date on which the aid under the scheme is granted.

9.1.1 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 who do not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU may apply for the scheme. Applications not related 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 help?

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 on fundinfo@artscouncil.mt

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

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