



Equipment and Machinery Scheme for SMEs

INFORMATION SESSION



Some rules to follow



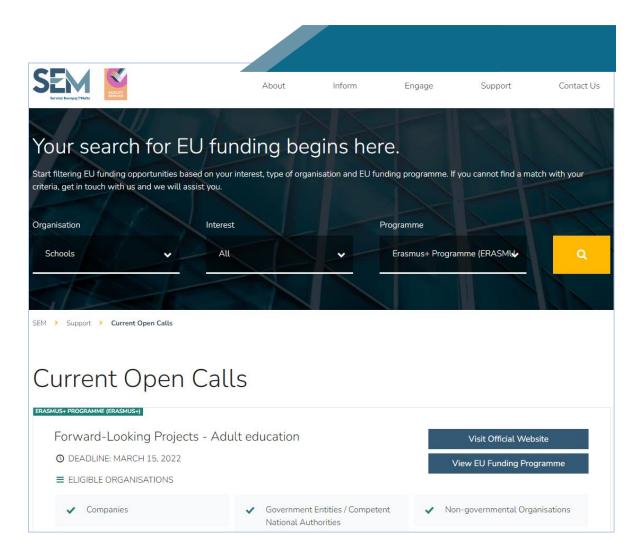
- Please keep your microphones OFF < and your cameras ON 📴
- You can ask your questions in chat
- Please refrain from asking questions that are specific to your individual project.
- You can contact us on <u>info.sem@gov.mt</u> to discuss specific projects.



SEM

Our mission

- We serve as a gateway to EU funds in Malta and Gozo, making it easier for citizens and organisations to reap the benefits of EU membership through EU funds.
- We are committed to inform individuals and organisations about the latest EU funding opportunities and of the benefits of EU funds to Maltese society, assist in the submission of competitive project applications, and support successful applicants in implementing their projects.





How can SEM assist you?











Information Sessions

Training Sessions One-to-One Meetings Application Writing

Project Implementation Support





Project Development



- Understanding the eligibility criteria projects need to meet (varies from one EU funding call to another).
- Developing the project idea to be competitive for funding.
- Supporting organisations to structure their project ideas needs analysis, aims, objectives, activities, impact and evaluation.



Project Writing



SEM provides support with the application process for EU funds, tailored to the needs of the applicant organisation:

- Vetting with comments
- Vetting with amendments
- Vetting with completion



Project Implementation



- Informative documents for organisations implementing EU funded projects.
- Support with key phases of project implementation, such as reporting.
- Guidance throughout the project lifetime for proper implementation of EU funded projects.





- ERDF Grant Schemes are administered and managed by the Measures and Support Division
- In order to make the most of the remaining implementation timeframes, the Equipment and Machinery Grant Scheme with a budget of €2M has been launched to support potential beneficiaries that are ready to implement relatively small projects within very tight deadlines.
- Business success is dependent on the ability of the enterprise to focus investment towards expansion and innovation. Such investment can be aimed at expanding, diversifying, and/or innovating the operations, and by supporting initial investments.
- This incentive seeks to support Undertakings through the provision of assistance in the form of non-repayable Grants to part-finance investment in equipment and machinery aimed at directly improving the productivity of the enterprise.



- Aid under this scheme shall be awarded in accordance with the *de minimis* State Aid Regulation.
- Minimum funding grant of €10,000 and a maximum grant capped at €120,000, with an <u>aid intensity of 50% for projects in Malta and 60% for projects in Gozo</u>.
- This scheme shall be administered through an open rolling call with periodical cut-off dates.
- Simplification -
 - No need to submit a Business Plan
 - Quotations to be submitted with application
 - No need to provide or submit the full Financial Statements
 - Rectification process open to all documents.



Eligible Actions

- Investment in equipment and/or machinery which is considered as <u>directly contributing to improving the productivity of the enterprise</u>.
- Need to be implemented (meaning paid) within 3 months from GA.

Eligible Costs

- Purchasing of new equipment and/or machinery
- Only three items can be procured (multiple of same is ok)

Exclusions

• The exclusions shall be in line with the ERDF regulation and applicable state aid regulations.



Call 1 opens on 1 February 2023

Cut-off dates are at **noon** of:

13 February28 February17 March30 March14 April28 April

Application requirements:

- Technical specifications and 3 compliant quotations
- Declarations (de minimis and application)
- Compliance Certificates
- Financial Statements (as applicable)
- Permits (*where applicable*)
- Evidence of private match financing
- NACE code confirmation, GANNT chart or Implementation Schedule

Gateway Criteria



| Gateway Criteria | Factors to consider |
|--|---|
| Complete application form | Submit in time and ensure to upload the correct documents, in line with the Guidance Notes. |
| Eligibility of Undertaking | Size of Undertaking - Consider the applicant and any linked and/or partner enterprises, as well as shareholders' control and directorships (refer to User Guide to the SME definition). Economic sector - Ensure that the enterprise operates in an eligible economic sector (as per NACE Code). |
| Eligibility of action and activities | Include only eligible activities and which are achievable within the operation timeline. Incentive effect is deemed broken once commitments/start of works are effected prior to date of granting of aid. |
| Match Financing | This has to originate from private sources, such as through applicant's own financial resources, bank loan, crowd funding, and others. |

Selection Criteria



- Those applications that meet all the requirements of the gateway criteria shall proceed for assessment under the selection criteria.
- The Project Selection Committee will evaluate and score each of these applications against the following set Selection Criteria, with a total potential score of **100 points**.

Risk Assessment - 10 marks Excellence - 30 marks Impact and Sustainability - 25 marks Quality and efficiency of implementation - 35 marks

• In the case of this aid scheme, it will be administered through an open (rolling) call. After scoring, applications attaining 50% of the total score or higher will be approved for funding on a first-come-first served basis, subject to the budget availability.



Would you like further assistance?



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Contact SEM

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Your feedback means a lot to us

Please answer a few short questions from the feedback form posted in the chat to help us improve future events.





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Thank You



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