



How is COVID-19 affecting EU Funds and EU Funded Projects?

- (i) Extensions of deadlines*
- (ii) Modification of Method of Submission of Applications*
- (iii) Updates for Beneficiaries Implementing EU Funded Projects*

Here is what we know so far.

Extension of Deadlines

As a result of difficulties experienced due to the coronavirus outbreak, the deadlines for submission of applications for the below Programmes have been extended as follows:

Erasmus+

- **21 April 2020** for all Erasmus+ Sport Actions (Collaborative partnerships, Small collaborative partnerships, Not-for-profit European sport events).
- **23 April 2020** for Key Action 2 Strategic Partnerships for: School Education (KA201), Vocational Education and Training (KA202), Higher Education (KA203), Adult Education (KA204), School Exchange Partnerships (KA229).
- **7 May 2020** for Key Action 1 Mobility of individuals in the field of youth
- **7 May 2020** for Key Action 2 Strategic partnerships in the field of youth
- **7 May 2020** for Key Action 3 Youth Dialogue Projects
- **26 May 2020** for the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (applications to be sent to the Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency).

European Solidarity Corps:

- **7 May 2020** for Volunteering projects
- **7 May 2020** for Traineeships and jobs
- **7 May 2020** for Volunteering Partnerships (specific agreements for 2020 under the FPA 2018-2020)
- **7 May 2020** for Solidarity Projects

Horizon 2020:

For calls with original deadlines **between 16th March and 15 April**, extensions will be applied. The precise new deadlines for each call and topic will be published on the call and topic pages on the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

For the following two calls, no extension of deadline/cut-off date will apply:

- IMI2-2020-21-01
- EIC-SMEInst-2018-2020

Promotion of Agricultural Products (AGRIP):

All calls deadlines postponed to **3 June 2020**

Justice Programme

- **7 May 2020** for Call for proposals for action grants to support national or transnational e-justice projects
- **7 May 2020** for Call for proposals for action grants to promote judicial cooperation in civil and criminal justice
- **7 May 2020** for Action grants to promote judicial cooperation in civil and criminal justice
- **13 May 2020** for Action grants to support transnational projects on training of justice professionals covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights

Rights Equality and Citizenship Programme

- **15 April 2020** for Call for proposals to improve the awareness on EU citizenship rights and inclusion of mobile EU citizens and to support coordination among national authorities competent in electoral matters
- **15 April 2020** for Call for proposals limited/restricted to national Data Protection Authorities on reaching out to stakeholders on the new data protection legislation
- **15 April 2020** for Call for proposals on closing gender gaps over the life-course
- **15 April 2020** for Call for proposals to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, young people and women
- **15 April 2020** for Call for proposals to promote the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination
- **29 April** for Call for proposals to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance and to monitor, prevent and counter hate speech online
- **13 May 2020** for Call for proposals limited to National Roma Platforms
- **13 May 2020** for Proposals on capacity-building in the area of rights of the child

Modification in the Method of Submission of Applications

The method of submission of applications for the below Programme has been modified as follows:

LEADER GAL Xlokk:

Until further notice applications for Measure 3 and 4 will be accepted **only via email** on info@galxlokk.com.

Each applicant will be asked to submit the original applications and supporting documentation together with another copy at a later stage.

Due to the same COVID-19 issue, the GXF reserves the right to provide additional time to applicants in order to submit the rest of the documents, **which are not indicated as compulsory at application stage**. The list which is not an exhaustive one, includes:

- the VAT Declaration Form;
- the VO Certificate and its compliance certificate;
- the Jobs Plus Certificate;
- PA site plans;
- the FSS / SSC Clearance Certificate.

LEADER GAL Majjistral:

Until further notice **only soft copies** sent via email to galmajjistral@gmail.com will be accepted. Applicants are to ensure that applications are sent in one compressed zipped folder, with each documentation clearly labelled, by the close of deadline.

Original application and supporting documentation will be requested later on.

Signed applications should include all required documentation. In case an application is submitted with missing documentation/information, a notification letter will be sent to the applicant to submit the missing documentation and/or information. Due to the outbreak, **MAGF reserves the right to provide additional time by which missing documentation and/or information is to be received.**

LEADER Gozo Action Group (GAGF):

Until further notice **only soft copies** sent via email to info@leadergozo.eu will be accepted. Applicants are to ensure that applications are sent in one compressed zipped folder, with each documentation clearly labelled, by the close of deadline.

Original application and supporting documentation will be requested later on.

Any documentation previously listed as 'Obligatory' will, unless otherwise notified, be considered as 'Required' documentation. **Hence, submitted applications with missing 'Obligatory documentation' will be deemed admissible.** Applicants will be advised further during the evaluation process with regards to the submission of any necessary documentation.

Measures of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (such as EAFRD Measure 4.1; 4.4)

Until further notice **only soft copies** sent via email to rdd.mfea@gov.mt. Applicants are to ensure that applications are sent in one compressed zipped folder, with each documentation clearly labelled, by the close of deadline.

Prospective applicants are strongly advised to avoid submitting applications on the last days of the batch, in order to ensure that technical hitches of any sort do not hinder the successful receipt of applications.

This notification is in no way linked to the Payments Campaign (Pillar I) and is only relevant to the RDP sub-measures for which applications are being, or will be, received as notified on the block procedure timetable available [here](#).

Any documentation previously listed in Measure guidelines and respective application forms as 'Obligatory' will, unless otherwise notified, be considered as 'Required' documentation. **Hence, submitted applications with missing 'Obligatory documentation' will be deemed admissible.** The applicants will be advised further, during the evaluation process, with regards to the submission of any necessary documentation.

Information for Beneficiaries of EU Funded Projects

The current situation has impacted beneficiaries who are currently implementing projects, especially due to travel restrictions and/or national social distancing measures.

Below is the information available so far for beneficiaries of EU funding Programmes:

Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps:

The ordinary implementation of the planned actions shall be normally carried out, as far as possible, and it is for the participating organisations and individuals to decide on the appropriate and proportionate course of action to take in the light of the measures formally adopted by the competent authorities.

All Agreements contain a ***“force majeure”*** clause which may apply to mobility or local activity restrictions, as a direct consequence of the outbreak. This will be analysed on a “case-by-case” basis. Beneficiaries should contact their case officer within EUPA for further assistance.

Organisations should contact individual participants who already are abroad, or are planning to leave; they should follow the official prescription adopted by the local competent authorities. Participants should also be reminded of the assistance that can be provided by embassies, consulates and honorary consulates in the country of their stay.

Interreg Mediterranean:

The Interreg MED Programme authorities are fully aware of project difficulties such as changes in work plans and activities.

Beneficiaries are advised to maintain their activities whenever possible. When they must be postponed or reorganised online, try and renegotiate travel arrangements.

For cancelled activities, a factsheet has been prepared to answer questions about the eligibility of expenses as extensively as possible. The factsheet can be downloaded from [here](#). The link also provides the approved flexibility rules concerning procedures on:

- Reporting and certification of expenditures
- Payment claims and Progress reports
- Payment of expenditure for projects finishing in 2020
- Signature of Subsidy Contracts for projects approved in 2019
- Projects modifications exclusively linked to COVID-19 lockdown / restrictions
 - Project extension
 - Budget modifications