Call for Proposals in the following scientific areas:

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**JRC Malta Young Scientist Award**

* Digital Economy
* Economics of Climate Change, Energy and Transport
* Economics of Agriculture

# 1.0 Background on the JRC

As the European Commission's science and knowledge service, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) supports EU policies with independent scientific evidence throughout the whole policy cycle. The JRC creates, manages and makes sense of knowledge and develops innovative tools and makes them available to policy makers. The JRC anticipates emerging issues that need to be addressed at EU level and understands policy environments.

JRC work has a direct impact on the lives of citizens by contributing with its research outcomes to a healthy and safe environment, secure energy supplies, sustainable mobility and consumer health and safety. JRC draws on over 60 years of scientific experience and continually builds its expertise in knowledge production and knowledge management. Located across five countries, the JRC hosts specialist laboratories and unique research facilities and is home to thousands of scientists.

# JRC Malta Young Scientist Award

The Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) is receiving proposals under the JRC Malta Young Scientist Award. The aim of this Award is to showcase the efforts of Maltese young scientists to the JRC.

*JRC scientific areas open to this call:*

# Digital Economy

In this scientific area the JRC team provides quantitative and qualitative socio-economic research in support to the Digital Economy, Digital Living and Digital Society. The team analyses data value chains and the conditions related to their development.

The team provides technical coordination of the INSPIRE Directive developing the European Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for sharing data, information and knowledge and leading to the development of the next‐generation of SDI (Digital Earth).

* **Economics of Climate Change, Energy and Transport**

The team supports the European Commission by performing economics-based research in support of energy, transport and climate-related policies. This incorporates the assessment of the economic impacts of decarbonisation policies and regulatory tools, analysing the links between competitiveness, energy, transport. This work is also to include the development of a reference toolset of economic models, including research to improve their reliability and robustness.

* **Economics of Agriculture**

The teams mission is to provide scientific support to EU policymakers in assessing through macro and micro socio-economic analyses the development of the Agro Food sector and related sectors including rural development, food security, trade and technological innovation in the EU and globally, but with special emphasis on Africa. The work also focuses on the economic aspects related to the uptake of technologies in agriculture, including climate change mitigation and productivity technologies. This support is based on advanced economic modelling tools, statistical methods, and easy data access.

# 3.0 Definitions

**Research** as defined under this Award is the systematic investigation, work or research carried out through experiment, theoretical work or analysis undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge, primarily directed towards a specific practical aim or objective in line with the JRC Awards.

**Innovation** is defined as the internationally novel scientific/technological development of a technological process, product or service. Also, the definition of innovation within the same context can also be applied to non-novel, yet step-change/ground-breaking enhancement of existing technological processes, products or services, or even the application of existing knowledge to new novel applications of these solutions to deliver step-change competitiveness through such an application.

**Maltese Legal Entity** means any entity created under the law of Malta which has legal personality and which may, acting under its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations.

* **Industry (Industrial Entity)** is defined as a legal entity, including but not limited to, a privately owned company or commercial enterprise the objects and activities of which include the output of a specified product and service.
* **NGO** means any Voluntary or Non-Governmental Organisation set up in accordance with The Voluntary Organisations Act (Cap. 492 of the Laws of Malta).
* **Maltese Private Body** means any Maltese Legal Entity which has more than 50% private shareholding.
* **Public Entity** means any Maltese Public Service Department or Maltese Public Sector Entity, or any Maltese Legal Entity which has more than 50% government shareholding. Public Entities also include foundations, local councils and public academic entities. In the case of public academic entities, this includes but is not limited to a higher education entity or a research institute, whether as a whole body or as a component unit or department within such body, provided that the higher education entity must be in possession of a license for Higher Education according to Article 8(3) of the Act of Education, Chapter 327 of the Laws of Malta. This does not include the license for a tuition centre. Public Service refers to all Ministries and Departments; and

 (ii) Public Sector Entities refers to authorities, corporations, agencies and commercial public sector entities in which the Government has a majority shareholding and that are not listed on the stock exchange.

# Eligibility Criteria

In order to apply for the JRC Malta Young Scientist Award, the applicant must be;

* + - A Maltese Resident.
		- In possession of at least a Master degree at MQF Level 7.
		- Individual is/has been engaged in research (preferably for a period of at least three years especially for areas where significant number of applications will be received) within a Maltese Legal entity, as defined in the document, with the affiliation on the concerned entity stated.
		- Under 40 years of age.

# 5.0 Submission of Application Form

Interested Applicants are to submit their application documents electronically to jrc.mcst@gov.mt keeping melchior.cini@gov.mt in copy, with “JRC Malta Young Scientist Award” as a subject heading. Applications should be received by not later than **midnight on** **Friday 13th September.** All submissions should be initialised or stamped on each page of the application form and a full signature by the applicant and head of entity on page 5 of the application form. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Only one application per scientist

Submissions should include the following documents:

* the ‘JRC Malta Young Scientist Award Application Form’ associated with this Call
* Europass CV of applicant

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the timely and correct delivery of the application form to the MCST. It should be noted that emails larger than 6MB shall be automatically rejected by the system.

# Selection Process

Awards will be selected by MCST through a two-phase process. A number of Maltese young scientists will be selected for the Award.

# Phase One: Administrative

* + - Pass/fail on standard eligibility criteria. A fail in eligibility check will see no further progression of the application to Stage 2.
		- Evaluation of academic merit based on academic copies of certificates and list of publications with Impact Factor.

# Phase Two: Scientific Interview

The Malta Council for Science and Technology will set up a *JRC Award Board* to operate the process of selection. The applicant shall be invited to provide a short presentation explaining the research carried out and its contribution to the particular JRC Unit Area as well as answering any queries the board may have with regards to the respective application.

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

1. Introduction - academic work and/or work experience background of the applicant.
2. Research Excellence & Impact.
3. Relevance to one of the JRC scientific areas open to this call.
4. Presentation and communication skills, as well as the ability to articulate and deliver research presentations.

The results of the JRC selection board will then be presented to JRC and the final award decision will be taken by JRC.

# 7.0 Award

Young scientists from Malta will visit the JRC for 2-3 days. Envisaged timeframe is autumn 2019.The JRC Award will cover the costs for the flight and accommodation for the respective visit. The event programme will include;

* A general overview of JRC as the science and knowledge service of the European Commission,
* Presentation of the visitor's projects to JRC Seville scientists,
* "Shadowing" of JRC scientists according to the individual fields of interest.

Kindly note that the JRC can only offer one date – if one of the winners cannot make it on that date JRC cannot guarantee that a visit is possible at another occasion.

# 8.0 Further Information

For further information on the JRC Malta Young Scientist Award, kindly contact Dr. Melchior Cini as per details below:

Dr. Melchior Cini

JRC National Contact Point Malta R&I Programmes Unit

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Email: melchior.cini@gov.mt