



*Below are replies to some questions raised on the SINO-MALTA Fund 2023 Call. Please note that the National Rules for Participation in the SINO MALTA Fund 2023 Call should still be referred to and will always prevail.*

## 1. What type of research is eligible for funding under the SINO-MALTA fund?

The SINO-MALTA Fund is a Research and Development funding programme. R&D is the systematic investigation, work, or research carried out in any field of science or technology through experiment, theoretical work or analysis undertaken to acquire new knowledge, primarily directed towards a specific practical aim or objective. R&D includes Fundamental Research, Industrial Research or Experimental Development in line with the definitions outlined in the National Rules.

## 2. Can you explain the application process, submission, and deadlines?

The application process for this Fund is a one-stage process.

The submission deadline for the proposal is **27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 23:59 CET**.

A complete application form must be submitted by the Maltese Lead Applicant, on behalf of the Project Consortium, to MCST via email on [international.mcst@gov.mt](mailto:international.mcst@gov.mt). Corresponding Annexes may be sent by the Maltese Project Partners directly to the Council via email. The application form must be signed by all the Maltese partners in a consortium.

## 3. Should the research by the Chinese and research by the Maltese be different or complementary?

The research carried out by either side of the consortium must be complementary, and this has to be reflected in the application form. Additionally, only proposals with an approved cooperation agreement signed by all partners and an approved Intellectual Property (IP) agreement signed by all partners will be considered. Furthermore, proposals on either side must bear matching thematic areas.



## 4. How can one find partners?

Interested applicants are invited to make use of plumtri's matchmaking SINO-MALTA Fund page by registering interest here: <https://bit.ly/3EYhBkR>. Kindly note that the page is accessible to plumtri registered users only.

One can also search for partners from the following page: <https://www.plumtri.org/partner-search>.

## 5. How is the budget divided between project partners?

The National Budget for this Call is of €600,000 – this is matched by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) in the People's Republic of China; therefore the total fund is €1.2 million. The highest-ranking projects, based on the results from both sides, will be awarded. The maximum requested budget for Maltese partners in a consortium is €200,000. Therefore, the Maltese partners in a project cannot request more than €200,000 in each application. Budgets for the Chinese partners will be requested through their application to MOST.

## 6. Where can one find past SINO-MALTA Fund awarded projects?

The list of funded projects under the SINO-MALTA Fund can be found here: <http://mcst.gov.mt/sino-malta-fund/>

## 7. What costs are eligible for funding for students?

Students can be engaged on the project and paid an annual stipend of €6,000 when reading for a Master's degree or an annual stipend of €8,000 when reading for a Doctoral degree. Note that for every engaged student, a full-time researcher must be employed by the applicant to specifically work on the awarded research project.

## 8. Is standard office equipment eligible for funding?

Standard office equipment is NOT eligible for funding.

## 9. Is the pre-check mandatory?

The pre-check by MCST is NOT mandatory but is an administrative service offered by MCST to assist applicants.



## 10. Where can one find Cooperation and IP Agreement Templates.

An approved Cooperation Agreement signed by all partners and an approved IP agreement signed by all partners (both Malta-based and China-based) needs to be submitted with the Application form. MCST does not currently provide templates for such agreements.

## 11. Is the opportunity only for Malta-based organisations or are other EU SMEs able to participate?

MCST can only use local funds to support Malta-based entities. Any other entities not based in Malta or China can take part in the project through own contribution.