



Below are replies to some questions raised on the SINO-MALTA Fund 2024 Call. Please note that the National Rules for Participation in the SINO MALTA Fund 2024 Call should still be referred to and will always prevail.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. To what extent would the funding help in Digital Technologies?

The funding is indiscriminatory on the call's thematic areas as long as the proposal falls under one of the call's thematic areas.

2. If we have previously withdrawn Start-up Finance application, will we get rejected by SINO-MALTA automatically?

To be able to participate in the Call, eligible entities need to be registered in Malta as legal entities.

3. What is the extent of acceptance regarding proposals related to for example environment and climate applications?

The call for proposals is a bottom-up initiative, designed to encourage a wide range of innovative ideas and projects. Proposals related to environment and climate applications are encouraged, provided they align with the overarching themes of green and blue transitions. These themes encompass a broad spectrum of areas, so if the proposal can be effectively incorporated into these areas, it will be deemed eligible for participation.

4. How to do networking and how to get funding?

For partner search purposes and expanding your R&I Network, MCST administers the plumtri platform which has a matchmaking and a partner search function, this feature is used to network with both local and foreign partners with similar R&I expertise and interests. Regarding getting funding, applicants need to participate in a competitive call, through which the top ranked projects are evaluated according to the criteria set in the national rules, and selected for award depending on the outcomes of the evaluations. .



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5. What is the general procedure and alignment between Chinese/Maltese application, and can the same group apply for two separate applications?

The application process for this Fund is a one-stage process. The submission deadline for the proposal is 19th July 2024 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. 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, the Chinese partner will follow a similar procedure, however, will need to apply separately with MOST.

Once the application is submitted it undergoes an administrative eligibility check, which will be followed by the scientific evaluation process which is carried out separately by MCST and MOST respectively, after which both entities agree on one final ranking list & the highest ranked proposals are up for award, after which they will go through a Grant Agreement Phase which leads to the official start date of the project.

In the National Rules it is stated that applicants are eligible to submit more than one proposal under this Call, however for proposals that have the same PI and if both are chosen for funding, only one of the projects will proceed to be funded. Whether this is eligible or not from the China side, will need to be checked with the respective national rules of participation issued by our counterparts MOST.

6. What are the financing and co-financing aspects (if any) of this call. Do such projects involve travelling & what is the timeline after project submission.

The financing & Co-Financing aspects depend on the funding modalities applicable to the entity applying for the Call. Public Entities and Public Research and Knowledge Dissemination Organizations (RKDO's) that do not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU, are eligible for 100% of the requested financing as state aid is not applicable, whilst for private entities since state aid is applicable, the co-financing rate will depend on the funding route taken (De minimis/GBER) and the entity size. Travelling is an eligible cost for Non-State Aid & De- minimis applicants.



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7. Is there a time limit when the projects need to be finished to get the funding?

The call is open for projects with a timeline duration of up to 24 months.

8. The Maximum €200,000 allocated to the Malta based consortium, is the same amount allocated to our China based partners or shared?

The €200,000 is the maximum amount of funding which can be requested by the Maltese partners, the same amount equivalent to the latter in Chinese currency is available for the China based partner.

9. What are the types of projects considered and what is the acceptance process?

The types of projects considered for the SINO-MALTA Fund are Research and Development (R&D) projects (Fundamental Research, Industrial Research or Experimental Development) in line with the definitions outlined in the National Rules. The acceptance process is divided into two stages post proposal submission, the administrative eligibility check where proposals are checked administratively whether they are eligible to participate and the scientific evaluation process, where the proposals are graded according to their technical excellence.

10. What are the minimum required deliverables for each project?

Apart from some mandatory deliverables listed in the National Rules (Ex: Dissemination event), there is no compulsory amount of deliverables which needs to be submitted, however it needs to be noted that any deliverable committed to at application stage needs to be achieved throughout the project. Therefore, it is in the applicant's best interest not to commit to many deliverables, as they need to be realistic & achievable.



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11. I saw that “WP1 Project Management” is no longer required. Can I still have it if I want to? If it is not allowed, how should I incorporate it in the other work packages?

For a work package dedicated to Project Management specifically it might be difficult to incorporate research in it, therefore it is recommended that project management can be directly incorporated with the other work packages as within each work package there is usually an aspect of Project Management anyways (Example: the project monitoring, the allocation of personnel) hence there is no need to allocate a specific work package to it, same applies to dissemination, it can be incorporated within the rest of the research-based work packages.

12. Is a dissemination event required for this Project (and if yes, is there a budget that is dedicated to this)?

As stipulated in the National Rules of Participation, one of the mandatory deliverables for each project is the dissemination event, for which a total budget of €5,000 will be deducted from the project grant to participate in such event.

13. Does the China based entity fill in a form like that one of MCST?

The China based entity fills in a separate form issued by MOST for the China based partners, however when submitting to MOST and MCST respectively you will still be describing what the other partner will be doing and vice-versa, hence partners can still work together in the filling out of application forms. The main differences are the language and the specific questions related and relevant to both entities. The China based application form can be accessed [here](#).

14. China partner mentioned "Agreement of Collaboration" form - is this form available on MCST site and is it actually required?

There is no specific template issued by MCST, since this is an agreement between the partners in the Consortium, it is one of the necessary submission documents alongside the Application form and the relevant annexes.



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15. Are there word limits to the various sub-sections of the form? e.g. state of the art, aims and objectives)?

There is a page limit set for Part B of the application form (excluding Sections 7 to 10), of up to 30 pages and must be typed using the minimum font size of 10 with single spacing.

16. In Section 5.1 there is a field about “Researcher Mobility, continuation of research activities”. What does this mean?

This may be addressed under the impact section in the application form, this field refers to the plans for the project with regards to continuation post execution (Example: development of new opportunities, future plans for the project etc..).

17. Can previously awarded applicants re-apply under SINO?

There are no restrictions for previous beneficiaries to apply, however care must be taken not to exceed the 1720 person hours per annum capping (applicable on active projects) set in the National Rules for participation.