



**GOZO REGIONAL**  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

# Initial EU Funding Opportunities Roadmap for Gozo

A Summary of Opportunities from EU funded Programmes for Gozo



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## INTRODUCTION

Gozo has enjoyed numerous forms of local, administrative, and political autonomous setups throughout its long history. The Gozo Regional Development Authority (GRDA) is the next step of this journey and an important landmark in the emancipation of Gozo as a territory with sound governance that can embrace and promote sustainable development. The GRDA, which was officially launched in September 2020, has both a consultative and a regulatory function and addresses an important gap in the socio-economic development of Gozo by developing regional policies and overseeing their implementation.

One of the first initiatives that the GRDA has embarked on is the development of a Regional Development Strategy (RDS) for Gozo which will act as a roadmap for any initiatives undertaken with respect to Gozo. Following publication of the RDS Consultation Document in July 2021, and through consultations with all interested stakeholders to seek their view, the GRDA has commissioned AcrossLimits Ltd to conduct a study about the available EU funded programmes and draft a roadmap that aligns with the 8 priority areas as defined in GRDA's RDS Consultation Document. This study would complement the final RDS for Gozo (currently being formulated by GRDA), which will propose a medium-to-long term socio-economic vision and plan which is realistic and implementable.



© Photo: Terry Camilleri



# 1

## GRDA priorities mapped with available Programmes

A wide variety of EU funded programmes are available for EU member states. However, in order to have a higher chance of funding success, one must be careful to choose the best programme where to place a proposal.

The following is a matrix of the programmes that should be explored by GRDA depending on the Priority Area.



## Programmes' Matrix

EU Funded Programmes aligned with Priority Areas	GRDA Priority Area							
	1 Spatial Planning & Sustainable Urban Dev.	2 Infrastructure and Accessibility	3 Economic and Talent Development	4 New Economy	5 Sustainable Tourism	6 Social Development	7 Rural Development and Eco-Gozo	8 Culture, Heritage and Arts
Horizon Europe	X		X	X	X		X	X
Citizen Engagement Rights and Values [CERV]						X	X	
CEF2 Digital - Connecting Europe Facility 2 Digital		X						
Digital Europe				X				
Erasmus+			X		X	X	X	X
EUREKA Network			X	X	X			
LIFE 2021-2027	X				X		X	
Interreg			X	X	X		X	X
COST		X	X					
European Agriculture Fund for Rural Dev [EAFRD]					X		X	X
Single Market Programme [EU SMP]			X	X	X		X	X
Blue Invest		X					X	
Asylum Migration and Integration Fund [AMIF]						X		
European Green Deal							X	
Creative Europe				X	X			X
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund [EMFAF]		X					X	
Joint Cluster Initiative [EUROCLUSTERS]			X	X	X			
Innovation Fund		X		X			X	

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## Programmes in detail





# Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation. It tackles climate change, helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth.

The programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. It supports creating and better dispersing of excellent knowledge and technologies.

It creates jobs, fully engages the EU's talent pool, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness and optimises investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area.

Horizon Europe has laid out 5 missions towards:

- Adaptation to climate change mission
- Climate-neutral and smart cities mission
- Cancer mission
- Soil deal for Europe mission
- Restore our oceans and waters mission

**Disclaimer: Horizon proposals are highly demanding and it is difficult to succeed due to competition.**

## Project Examples

- Biosecurity, hygiene, disease prevention and animal welfare in aquaculture
- Socio-economics of pesticide use in agriculture
- Offshore renewable energy platforms
- Solutions to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture
- Underwater farming

## Areas of Interest

- Innovation
- Research
- Technology
- Health
- Culture, creativity and inclusive society
- Civil security for society
- Digital, industry and space
- Climate, energy and mobility
- Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment

## Useful Links

- [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en)



HORIZON EUROPE

# Citizen Engagement Rights and Values [CERV]

CERV aims to protect and promote Union rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will contribute to sustain and further develop open, right-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law.

Projects funded under CERV should:

- Focus on protecting, promoting and raising awareness on rights, by providing financial support to civil society organisations active at local, regional and transnational level in promoting and cultivating these rights.
- Prevent and combat inequalities and discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the EU Charter.
- Promote citizens and representative associations participation in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by making known and publicly exchanging their views in all areas of Union action.
- Preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, young people, as well as violence against other groups at risk, such as LGBTQI persons and persons with disabilities.

## Project Examples

- Promote capacity building and awareness of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and activities on strategic litigation relating to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights breaches
- Protection and promotion of the rights of the child

## Areas of Interest

- Union values
- Equality, rights and gender equality
- Citizens engagement and participation
- To fight violence, including gender-based violence

## Useful Links

- <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/cerv>
- [https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/justice-and-consumers/justice-and-consumers-funding-tenders\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/justice-and-consumers/justice-and-consumers-funding-tenders_en)
- [Link to Project Example 1](#)
- [Link to Project Example 2](#)



# Connecting Europe Facility 2021-2027 [CEF]

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) 2021-2027 is aimed at supporting investment in key projects in the areas of transport, digital and energy infrastructure with an overall budget of €33.71 billion.

The budgets for each sector are:

- Transport: €25.81 billion (including €11.29 billion for cohesion countries)
- Energy: €5.84 billion
- Digital: €2.07 billion

**Transport** - The programme will promote interconnected and multimodal networks in order to develop and modernise rail, road, inland waterway and maritime infrastructure, as well as ensuring safe and secure mobility. Priority will be given to further development of the trans-European transport networks (TEN-T), focusing on missing links and cross-border projects with an EU added value. €1.56 billion of the transport budget will finance major rail projects between cohesion countries and €1.69 billion will be devoted to ensuring that when infrastructure is adapted to improve military mobility within the EU, it is dual-use compatible, meeting both civilian and military needs.

**Energy** - The programme aims to contribute to further integration of the European energy market, improving the interoperability of energy networks across borders and sectors, facilitating decarbonisation, and ensuring security of supply. Funding will also be available for cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy generation. When defining award criteria, consistency with EU and national energy and climate plans, including the principle of 'energy efficiency first', will be taken into account.

CEF 2021-2027 emphasises synergies between the transport, energy and digital sectors and promotes cross-sectoral work in areas such as connected and automated mobility and alternative fuels. The programme also aims to mainstream climate action, taking into account the EU's long-term decarbonisation commitments such as the Paris Agreement.

## Project Examples

- Installing free Wifi for public/tourism hotspots
- Establishing a cheap and efficient cross-border transport system
- Linking Mğarr harbour to other European harbours
- Offshore renewable energy platforms
- Photocatalyst to fight climate change



# Connecting Europe Facility 2021-2027 [CEF]

## Areas of Interest

- Transport infrastructure projects throughout the EU and beyond
- Trans-European Networks for Energy
- Deployment of/access to very high-capacity networks, including 5G systems
- Deployment of new or significant upgrade of existing backbone networks including submarine cables, both within/between the EU Member States and third countries
- Implementation of digital connectivity infrastructures related to cross-border transport and energy projects
- Improving military mobility within the EU, with dual-use compatibility, meeting both civilian and military needs

## Useful Links

- [https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/connecting-europe-facility\\_en](https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/connecting-europe-facility_en)
- [https://errin.eu/system/files/2020-02/Commission%20sets%20out%20draft%20guidelines%20for%20CEF2%20Digital%20programme\\_2019-12-11.pdf](https://errin.eu/system/files/2020-02/Commission%20sets%20out%20draft%20guidelines%20for%20CEF2%20Digital%20programme_2019-12-11.pdf)



# Digital Europe

The Digital Europe Programme (**DIGITAL**) is the first financial instrument of the EU focused on bringing digital technology to businesses and citizens. With a planned overall budget of **€7.5 billion**, it will accelerate the economic recovery and shape the digital transformation of Europe's society and economy, bringing benefits to everyone, particularly SMEs. This programme supports the rollout of technologies and training necessary to deliver the objectives of the EU Digital Single Market strategy. This is direct funding for work available through tendering. Much more will be spent by industry delivering their own contributions to achieving the targets. e.g. 5G, broadband4all etc.

## European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH)

Will function as one-stop shops that help companies dynamically respond to the digital challenges and become more competitive by providing access to technical expertise and experimentation as well as the possibility to “test before invest”. EDIHs help companies improve business/production processes, products, or services using digital technologies. They also provide innovation services, such as financing advice, training, and skills development that are needed for a successful digital transformation. Environmental issues especially energy consumption and low carbon emissions are also in focus. EDIHs will have both local and European functions. EU funding will be made available to hubs that are already (or will be) supported by their Member States (or regions), to increase the impact of public funding. The Digital Europe Programme will increase the capacities of the selected hubs to cover activities with a clear European added value, based on networking the hubs and promoting the transfer of expertise. The European Commission has developed a [document \(.pdf\)](#) that explains how the EDIH will be implemented in the Digital Europe Programme as well as a series of answers to Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQ as pdf](#)). The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission has developed a [practical handbook](#) with good practices on investments in Digital Innovation Hubs. The handbook aims to support regional, national, and RIS3 (Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialisation) policymakers.

## Project Examples

- Support traineeships and internships to enhance digital skills
- Support upskilling existing digital skills through short training programs
- Commission a study on the limitation of vehicles in Gozo's capital
- Link the Gozo Innovation Hub (GIH) to other European Innovation Hubs

# Digital Europe

## Areas of Interest

- Supercomputing (€2.2B)
- Artificial intelligence (€2.1B)
- Cybersecurity (€1.7B)
- Advanced digital skills (€580M)
- Ensuring a wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society (€1.1B)
- Digital Innovation Hubs improvement

## Useful Links

- <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>
- <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/64/digital-agenda-for-europe>
- [Digital Europe Programme: A proposed €7.5 billion of funding for 2021-2027 | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [EDIHs | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [JRC Publications Repository - Digital Innovation Hubs as policy instruments to boost digitalisation of SMEs \(europa.eu\)](#)





# Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. Education, training, youth and sport are key areas that support citizens in their personal and professional development. High quality, inclusive education and training, as well as informal and non-formal learning, ultimately equip young people and participants of all ages with the qualifications and skills needed for their meaningful participation in democratic society, intercultural understanding and successful transition in the labour market. Building on the success of the programme in the period 2014-2020, Erasmus+ strengthens its efforts to increase the opportunities offered to more participants and to a wider range of organisations, focusing on its qualitative impact and contributing to more inclusive and cohesive, greener and digitally fit societies.

European citizens need to be better equipped with the knowledge, skills and competencies needed in a dynamically changing society that is increasingly mobile, multicultural and digital. Spending time in another country to study, learn and work should become the standard, while speaking two other languages in addition to one's mother tongue should be the norm. The programme is a key component supporting the objectives of the European Education Area, the Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027, the European Youth Strategy and the European Union Work Plan for Sport.

## Project Examples

- eLearning training on digital skills for educators
- Promoting sport education among young students
- Promoting local traditional trades such as lace
- Organizing training camps in foreign European countries for immigrants
- Asylum seekers' integration programmes focusing on education, language and other training

## Areas of Interest

- Education
- Digital education
- Youth
- Sport

## Useful Links

- [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/programme-guide/part-a\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/programme-guide/part-a_en)
- [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/2021-annual-work-programme-erasmus-union-programme-education-training-youth-and\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/2021-annual-work-programme-erasmus-union-programme-education-training-youth-and_en)
- [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/erasmus-2021-2027-programme\\_en#:~:text=events%20\(main%20menu\)-,Erasmus%2B%202021%2D2027%20programme%20brings%20over%20%E2%82%AC26.2,to%20support%20mobility%20and%20cooperation&text=The%20new%20Erasmus%20programme%202021,14.7%20billion%20for%202014%2D2020](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/erasmus-2021-2027-programme_en#:~:text=events%20(main%20menu)-,Erasmus%2B%202021%2D2027%20programme%20brings%20over%20%E2%82%AC26.2,to%20support%20mobility%20and%20cooperation&text=The%20new%20Erasmus%20programme%202021,14.7%20billion%20for%202014%2D2020)



Erasmus+

# Eureka Network

Eureka is an international network established in 1985 as an agreement between 18 countries to foster European competitiveness and integration and to encourage R&D cooperation. EUREKA's aim is to enhance European competitiveness by fostering innovation-driven entrepreneurship in Europe, between small and large industries, research institutes and universities.

The Eureka Network now includes over 45 countries in Europe and beyond that share the same goals and have national funding available to organisations who apply through these programmes.

Eureka programmes provide the freedom to bring together the ideal consortium and decide the technological focus of international R&D projects.

These include EuroStars, GlobalStars and EuroClusters. Calls are available all year round.

## Project Examples

- Increasing the international market competitiveness of SMEs originating from Islands in the EU
- Transnational cooperation to innovate tools and technologies in the industry sector
- Commission a study on the limitation of vehicles in Gozo's capital
- Develop new tourism niches such as vegan tourism
- Underwater farming
- Photocatalyst to fight climate change
- Offshore renewable energy platforms

## Areas of Interest

- International cooperation
- Research & development
- Innovation



## Useful Links

- <https://www.eurekanetwork.org/countries/malta/>

# LIFE 2021-2027

The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. Created in 1992, it has co-financed thousands of projects. The new LIFE multiannual work programme 2021-2024 will cover the following areas:

- Nature and biodiversity
- Circular economy and quality of life
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Clean energy transition

The LIFE programme co-finances projects in the areas of urban adaptation and land-use planning, the resilience of infrastructure, sustainable management of water in drought-prone areas, flood and coastal management, the resilience of the agricultural, forestry and tourism sectors, and/or support to the EU's outermost regions: preparedness for extreme weather events, notably in coastal areas.

It provides action grants for best practice, pilot and demonstration projects that contribute to increasing resilience to climate change.

Different subprogrammes also promote integrated projects that implement EU policy and strategy on climate change adaptation.

## Project Examples

- Safeguarding natural resources in Europe
- Creating nationwide awareness campaigns for environmental issues
- Sharing of good practices with other countries/islands within Europe in order to influence policies related to these areas via means of a pilot project e.g. energy communities
- Commission a study on the limitation of vehicles in Gozo's capital
- Conservation of flora and fauna and urban greening projects
- Formulation of policy and strategy on climate change mitigation in villages and rural settings
- Adaptation and sharing of good practices with other countries with respect to landscaping and spatial planning
- Improving aesthetics of buildings
- Offshore renewable energy platforms
- Solutions to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture
- Quantification in terms of a monetary value of a particular tree/s
- Underwater farming
- Study on the population carrying capacity of Gozo and Comino - including tourism
- Island waste management - Introduction of waste collection points
- Photocatalyst to fight climate change



# LIFE 2021-2027

## Areas of Interest

- Recovery of resources from waste
- Environmental quality
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable economy
- Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition
- Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of related professional skills on the market
- Attracting private finance for sustainable energy
- Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects
- Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition

## Useful Links

- [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en)
- [LIFE - Calls for proposals \(europa.eu\)](#)

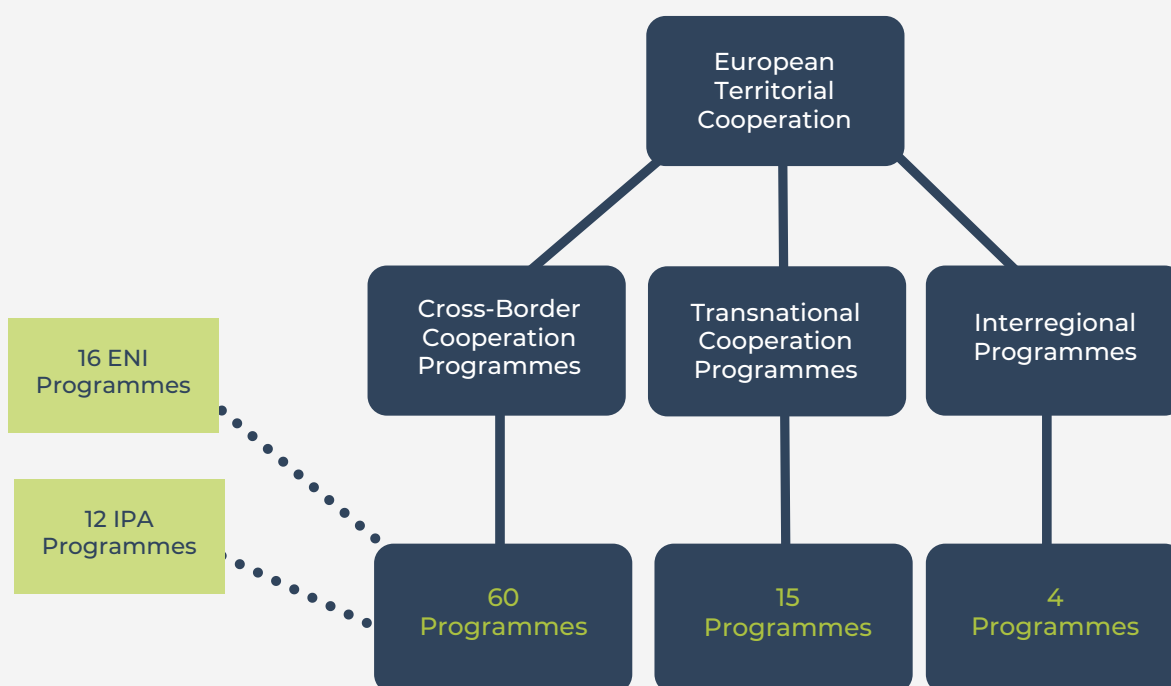




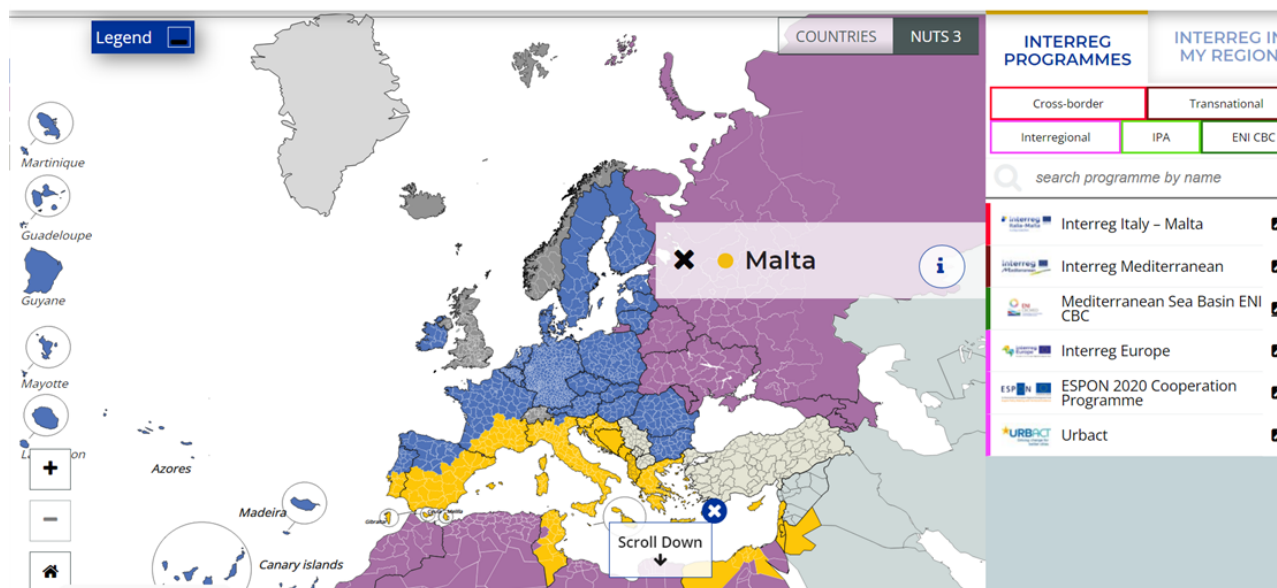
Interreg is one of the key instruments of the European Union (EU) supporting cooperation across borders through project funding. Its aim is to jointly tackle common challenges and find shared solutions in fields such as health, environment, research, education, transport, sustainable energy and more.

Interreg has three types of programmes:

- Cross border (60 programmes)
- Transnational (15 programmes)
- Interregional (4 programmes)



For Malta, as a Member State, the following Programmes apply. Some of them are still under discussion for the period 2021-2027, hence not all of them are mentioned in this document.



<https://italiamalta.eu/?lang=en>

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/>

<https://www.interreg-med.eu/>

<https://www.espon.eu/>

<http://www.enicbcmed.eu/>

<http://www.urbact.eu/>

# Interreg Italy-Malta

This is a cooperation programme between Sicily and Malta. The interested area is characterised by marked rurality and by the widespread presence of small and medium-sized urban centres. The cooperation territory has an insular nature with double insularity cases on both sides.

The Cooperation Programme promotes the integrated development between Italy and Malta in high technology sectors, aims to create conditions for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth and to develop the potential of some areas of common interest.

## **Budget**

The European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF) contributes to Interreg Italy-Malta with an amount equal to €43,952,171, which corresponds to 85% of the resources. The remainder, amounting to €7,756,267, is financed by the national counterpart.

Programme budget is divided as follows:

- 27.80% to finance initiatives linked to the Priority Axis 1 implementation
- 19.20% to finance initiatives linked to the Priority Axis 2 implementation
- 46.17% to finance initiatives linked to the Priority Axis 3 implementation
- The remaining portion of the resources contributes to the sound management, implementation, supervision and monitoring of the program (Priority Axis 4)

## **Project Examples**

- Research & innovation
- Competitiveness
- Employment and mobility
- Environment and efficient use of resources
- Climate change and risk management
- Study on the population carrying capacity of Gozo and Comino - including tourism
- Commission a study on the limitation of vehicles in Gozo's capital
- Offshore renewable energy platforms
- Solutions to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture
- Quantification in terms of a monetary value of a particular tree/s
- Quantification in terms of a monetary value of a terraced house (built with limestone)
- Photocatalyst to fight climate change

## **Areas of interest**

- Environmental protection
- Security of land and sea
- Cultural heritage
- Quality of life and health of citizens

# Interreg Italy-Malta

## Priority Axis

- Axis 1 – Innovation & research
- Axis 2 – Competitiveness
- Axis 3 – Protecting the environment and risk management
- Axis 4 – Technical assistance

## Useful Links

- <https://italiamalta.eu/progetti/funded-projects/?lang=en>
- <https://italiamalta.eu/?lang=en>
- <https://italiamalta.eu/programme/general-information/?lang=en>
- <https://italiamalta.eu/progetti/?lang=en#>





# InterregMed

The overall objective of the MED programme is to promote sustainable growth in the Mediterranean area by fostering innovative concepts and practices (technologies, governance, innovative services etc), reasonable use of resources (energy, water, maritime etc) and supporting social integration through an integrated and territory-based cooperation approach.

## Project Examples

- Helping SMEs in the Mediterranean achieve competitiveness
- Promoting Mediterranean culture
- Study on the population carrying capacity of Gozo and Comino - including tourism
- Commission a study on the limitation of vehicles in Gozo's capital
- Offshore renewable energy platforms
- Solutions to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture
- Quantification in terms of a monetary value of a particular tree/s
- Quantification in terms of a monetary value of a terraced house (built with limestone)
- Photocatalyst to fight climate change

## Areas of Interest

- Promoting Mediterranean innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth
- Fostering low-carbon strategies and energy efficiency in specific MED territories: cities, islands, and rural areas
- Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources
- Enhancing Mediterranean governance



## Useful Links

- <https://interreg-med.eu/documents-tools/programme-manual/>
- [https://interreg-med.eu/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Sites/Programme/Explore/What\\_is\\_Interreg\\_Med/Future\\_programme/Draft\\_Interreg\\_MED\\_strategy\\_21\\_27.pdf](https://interreg-med.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Sites/Programme/Explore/What_is_Interreg_Med/Future_programme/Draft_Interreg_MED_strategy_21_27.pdf)
- <https://interreg-med.eu/about-us/national-information/pages/malta/>

# Interreg Europe

Interreg Europe helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy. It creates an environment and opportunities for sharing solutions and policy learning with the aim to make sure that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts all lead to integrated and sustainable impact for people and places.

Solutions exist that can help our regions become the best that they can be. Today, the EU's emphasis is very much on paving the way for regions to realise their full potential – by helping them to capitalise on their innate strengths while tapping into opportunities that offer possibilities for economic, social and environmental progress.

To achieve this goal, Interreg Europe offers opportunities for regional and local public authorities across Europe to share ideas and experience on public policy in practice, thereby improving strategies for their citizens and communities.

During the 2021-2027 programming period, Interreg Europe will continue to support interregional cooperation among regions from all across Europe.

A programming committee has been set up to steer the overall process, take formal decisions about the content of future programmes, and select the thematic priorities. The committee is composed of delegates from 29 Partner States who have the authority to take decisions. An observer from the European Commission, as well as the programme's managing authority and joint secretariat, take part but without any decision-making powers. External experts have also been hired to help draft the new programme, which has been submitted to the European Commission for comments and approval in early January 2022. This process can take up to 6 months. The first call for proposals for the programme is planned to be launched in April 2022. For the latest developments and information about Interreg Europe 2021-2027, kindly follow the dedicated page: [www.interregeurope.eu/about-us/2021-2027](https://www.interregeurope.eu/about-us/2021-2027).

## Project Examples

- Formulation of policy and strategy on climate change mitigation in villages and rural settings

## Areas of Interest

- Research and innovation
- SME competitiveness
- Low-carbon economy
- Environment and resource efficiency

## Useful Links

- [Projects | Interreg Europe](#)
- [About us | Interreg Europe](#)
- [2021-2027 Programme | Interreg Europe](#)
- [Malta \(Malta\) | Interreg Europe](#)
- [Call for projects in interregional innovation investment | Interreg Europe](#)
- [Home | Interreg Europe](#)



# Mediterranean Sea Basin ENI CBC

ENI CBC “Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme” is the largest Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) initiative implemented by the EU under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). The Programme brings together the coastal territories of 14 countries in order to foster fair and equitable development on both sides of the Mediterranean. Through calls for proposals, ENI CBC Med finances cooperation projects for a more competitive, innovative, inclusive and sustainable Mediterranean area.

The strategic framework of the Programme is based on 4 thematic objectives and 11 priorities as a contribution to the main socio-economic and environmental challenges of the Mediterranean region.

**Note:**

At the moment there are no open calls that Malta/Gozo may benefit from. A good idea would be to engage with the contact points in Malta and to subscribe to the newsletter to keep informed about eventual new calls.

## Project Examples

- <https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/funded-projects>

## Thematic Objectives

- Business and SME development
- Support to education, research, technological development and innovation
- Promotion of social inclusion and fight against poverty
- Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation

## Useful Links

- <https://www.enicbcmed.eu/>
- <https://www.enicbcmed.eu/about-us/thematic-objectives-and-priorities>



# ESPON 2030

Following their initial agreement on the content of the ESPON 2030 programme as a prerequisite for the submission of the programme to the European Commission for approval, the Member and Partner States initiated further steps to ensure a timely start to activities during 2022. Activities under the ESPON 2030 programme are planned to start from 1 July 2022 under the lead of the ESPON EGTC (European Grouping on Territorial Cooperation).



The activities launched under the programme will be bundled in Thematic Action Plans (TAPs) to guarantee a coherent approach to research-based evidence production and tailored knowledge development activities for the support of policy makers and territorially interested stakeholders from the EU to the local level. It is important to note that evidence production and knowledge development should be guided by the needs of stakeholders and based on a sound research approach, with a focus on the gaps in existing research and innovative approaches. At the same time, they should properly address current territorial challenges and anticipate future ones.

## Thematic Action Plans



# ESPON 2030

## Thematic Action Plans

- Climate-neutral territories
- Governance of new geographies
- Perspective for all people and places
- Places resilient to crises

## Useful Links

- [ESPON | Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence](#)
- [Thematic Action Plans Consultation - ESPON 2030 | ESPON](#)



# Urbact

For over 15 years, the URBACT programme has been the European Territorial Cooperation programme aimed at fostering sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. It is an instrument of the Cohesion Policy, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the 28 Member States, Norway & Switzerland.

URBACT's mission is to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges by networking, learning from one another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies. URBACT helps cities to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable and that integrate economic, social and environmental urban topics.

There is no information yet available on the URBACT programme that will cover the period 2021+.

## Thematic Action Plans

- Physical urban development
- Environment
- Governance
- Inclusion
- Economy

## Useful Links

- [URBACT](#)
- [URBACT f'Malta | URBACT](#)
- [Come search our wealth of Good Practices | URBACT](#)



# COST

COST provides networking opportunities for researchers and innovators in order to strengthen Europe's capacity to address scientific, technological and societal challenges.

The nature of science has changed. It has become more interconnected, interdisciplinary, collaborative and data-intensive. Collaboration has become a critical aspect of solving complex problems.

COST creates spaces where scientists are in the driving seat (bottom-up) and ideas can grow through a flexible and open approach. By enabling researchers from academia, industry and the public and private sector to work together in open networks that transcend borders, COST helps to advance science, stimulates knowledge sharing and pools resources.

National governments make a real difference by ensuring that research cooperation optimises national investments in research and technology and thereby unlocks the full potential of science.

## Project Examples

- Cross border transfer and development of sustainable resource recovery strategies towards zero waste
- CorEUStem: The European Network for stem cell core facilities
- European MIC Network: New paths for science, sustainability and standards
- Commission a study on the limitation of vehicles in Gozo's capital
- Joining ongoing research programmes as a collaborative partner

## Areas of Interest

- Science and technology
- Cross-continent partnerships
- International research
- Empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators

## Useful Links

- <https://www.cost.eu/>
- <https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions-event/browse-actions/>
- [Link to Project Example 1](#)
- [Link to Project Example 2](#)
- [Link to Project Example 3](#)



# European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development [EAFRD]

The European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is one of two funding programmes created by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) launched in December 2020.

The EAFRD (the CAP's "second pillar") has been allocated a budget that amounts to €95.5 billion. This includes €8.1 billion from the Next Generation EU recovery instrument to help address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Around 30% of the recovery funds were available in 2021, with the remaining 70% to be released in 2022.

The EAFRD finances the CAP's contribution to the EU's rural development objectives:

- Improving the competitiveness of agriculture
- Encouraging sustainable management of natural resources and climate action
- Achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities

## Project Examples

- Investing in sustainable agricultural practices in Gozo's agricultural land
- Upgrading of chicken farm in compliance with EU Regulations
- Rural tourism, upgrading of agricultural facilities, other rural development & sustainable resource management
- Restoration of wells and agricultural land rubble walls
- Solutions to reduce the use of pesticides in agriculture
- Soil water lab
- Formulation of policy and strategy on climate change mitigation in villages and rural settings

## Areas of Interest

- Enhancement of the European agricultural market.
- Sustainable resource management.
- Ensuring sustainable infrastructure.

## Useful Links

- [https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/financing-cap/cap-funds\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/financing-cap/cap-funds_en)



# European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund [EMFAF]

The EMFAF runs from 2021 to 2027 and supports the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the EU Maritime Policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance.

It provides support for developing innovative projects ensuring that aquatic and maritime resources are used sustainably.

As a global ocean actor and a major producer of seafood, the EU has a responsibility to protect and sustainably use the oceans and their resources. It is also in the EU's socio-economic interest to guarantee the availability of food supplies, the competitiveness of the maritime economy and the livelihood of coastal communities.

The fund helps achieve sustainable fisheries and conserve marine biological resources. This leads to:

- Food security through the supply of fish and seafood products
- Growth of a sustainable blue economy
- Healthy, safe, and sustainably managed seas and oceans

Budget allocation 2021-2022 for Malta: €44.4M.

## Project Examples

- Recovery of coastal and maritime tourism in the Western Mediterranean
- Underwater farming

## Useful Links

- [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/european-maritime-fisheries-and-aquaculture-fund\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/european-maritime-fisheries-and-aquaculture-fund_en)
- [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/european-maritime-fisheries-and-aquaculture-fund/about-emfaf\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/european-maritime-fisheries-and-aquaculture-fund/about-emfaf_en)

## Areas of Interest

- Fostering sustainable fisheries and the conservation of marine biological resources;
- Contributing to food security in the Union through competitive and sustainable aquaculture and markets;
- Enabling the growth of a sustainable blue economy and fostering prosperous coastal communities;
- Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans.



# BlueInvest

BlueInvest aims to boost innovation and investment in sustainable technologies for the blue economy, by supporting readiness and access to finance for early-stage businesses, SMEs and scale-ups. It is enabled by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

## BlueInvest Grants

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) supports the development of innovative services and technologies and awards grants to market and investment-ready SMEs with innovative products, technologies and services for the blue economy. The 2019 call (€22.5 million) was published on 21 November 2019 and was open until 27 February 2020. 104 proposals were submitted. 29 SMEs were invited to pitch their proposals to an Investor Jury and 10 high-profile company projects were retained for funding. The 2020 BlueInvest call (€20 million) was published in November with a mid-January deadline. We are expecting these calls to be renewed in the coming years.

## BlueInvest Fund

The European Investment Fund, backed by the European Strategic Investment Fund, has earmarked finance for enterprises with innovative products and services that can help the blue economy deliver the EU's Green Deal priorities. From late January 2020, the new fund will be able to provide finance to funds that are wholly or partly targeting the blue economy or to individual enterprises backed by more general funds.

## Note:

Compared to other EU Member States, Malta is not very advanced in its maritime spatial planning status.

## Project Examples

- Economic impact of maritime spatial planning
- Study on the offshore energy potential
- Investing in the maritime economy - coastal tourism and activities
- Investing in the maritime economy - new marinas

## Areas of Interest

- Investing in the maritime economy
- Ecosystem sustainability in maritime business

# BlueInvest

## Useful Links

- <https://www.msp-platform.eu/fundings/blueinvest-fund>
- <https://www.msp-platform.eu/msp-practice/countries>
- <https://www.msp-platform.eu/msp-practice/msp-projects>
- [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_222](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_222)
- <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/1451>
- <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/node/4500>
- <https://www.westmed-initiative.eu/blueinvest/>



# EU Single Market Programme [SMP]

The Single Market Programme (SMP) is the EU funding programme to help the single market reach its full potential and ensure Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With €4.2 billion over the period of 2021-2027, it provides an integrated package to support and strengthen the governance of the single market.

The single market has been at the heart of the EU for nearly 3 decades. It enables citizens to live, work and travel wherever they wish, and offers consumers protection and greater choice of high-quality products and services at lower prices. Through legal certainty, access to markets and financial services, investment opportunities and access to funding, the single market is also a launchpad for companies.

However, the pandemic has shown that the single market is yet to materialise in a number of areas and can improve in others, and that a well-functioning single market is crucial for the resilience of our economy.

The Single Market Programme pools crucial activities financed under several previous programmes. It will provide a more coherent and agile financing framework to support the following key objectives.

## Project Examples

- Enterprise Europe Network

EEN is currently represented in Malta by Malta Enterprise. GRDA might wish to take into consideration a new representation in Gozo to give a direct link to Gozo businesses with other businesses in Europe.

Other countries have representation in various regions, not only one per country.

- Create a Gozitan Enterprise to link all Gozo businesses directly to Europe

## Areas of Interest

- Consumer protection
- Support to small and medium-sized businesses
- A more effective single market
- High quality European statistics
- Effective European standards

## Useful Links

- [Enterprise Europe Network](#)
- [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme_en)

# Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund [AMIF]

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) is set up for the period 2021-2027, with a total of EUR 9.9 billion. The Fund aims to further boost national capacities and improve procedures for migration management, as well as to enhance solidarity and responsibility sharing between Member States, in particular through emergency assistance and the relocation mechanism.

## AMIF will contribute to the achievement of four specific objectives:

- (1) To strengthen and develop all aspects of the common European asylum system, including its external dimension
- (2) To support legal migration to the Member States, including by contributing to the integration of third-country nationals
- (3) To contribute to countering irregular migration and ensuring effectiveness of return and readmission in third countries
- (4) To enhance solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States, in particular towards those most affected by migration and asylum challenges

## Project Examples

- Supporting an integrated and coordinated approach to return management at the EU and Member States level, development of capacities for effective and sustainable return and reducing incentives for irregular migration
- Supporting integration measures tailored to the needs of third-country nationals and early integration programmes focusing on education, language and other training (such as civic orientation courses and professional guidance) to prepare their active participation in and their acceptance by the receiving society
- Organising training camps in foreign European countries for immigrants

## Useful Links

- [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund_en)
- [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund \(2021-2027\)\\_\(europa.eu\)](#)

## Areas of Interest

- Migration
- Asylum and asylum seekers
- Social policy



# European Green Deal

The European Green Deal addresses impacts of climate change and pollution. This scheme crosses several boundaries and is designed to address environmental, economic and societal issues to achieve its objectives of overcoming climate change and environmental degradation by making the EU's economy sustainable.

Policy areas include biodiversity, from farm to fork, sustainable agriculture, clean energy, sustainable industry, building and renovating, sustainable mobility, eliminating pollution, and climate action. Many additional opportunities are being created for involvement that range from pure research to operations.

Furthermore, this call is intended to help the EU reach its targets in the fight against climate change and carbon emissions, one of which is that by 2050 the EU would have reached carbon neutrality.

## Project Examples

- Limiting methane emissions in the energy sector
- Technical analysis of measures to improve consumer awareness of emissions and fuel consumption of vehicles
- Study on the population carrying capacity of Gozo and Comino - including tourism
- Offshore renewable energy platforms
- Photocatalyst to fight climate change

## Useful Links

- [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en#policy-areas](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en#policy-areas)
- [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_20\\_24](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_24)
- [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1669](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1669)

## Areas of Interest

- Investing in environmentally-friendly technologies
- Supporting industry to innovate
- Rolling out cleaner, cheaper and healthier forms of private and public transport
- Decarbonising the energy sector
- Ensuring buildings are more energy efficient
- Working with international partners to improve global environmental standards





# Creative Europe

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme for support to the culture and audio-visual sectors. Following on from the previous Culture Programme and MEDIA programme, Creative Europe, with a budget of €1.46 billion (9% higher than its predecessors), will support Europe's cultural and creative sectors.

Creative Europe aims to support initiatives that can generate a real impact on the sector across Europe, including supporting individual works, initiatives that promote new skills in the sector, and initiatives that promote international cooperation in the sector.

## Project Examples

- Gathering local artists and supporting their art by holding events such as exhibitions
- Educating the general population about traditional music from various cultures
- Promoting local traditional trades such as lace

## Areas of Interest

- Help the cultural and creative sectors seize the opportunities of the digital age and globalisation
- Enable the sectors to reach their economic potential, contributing to sustainable growth, jobs, and social cohesion
- Give Europe's culture and media sectors access to new international opportunities, markets, and audiences

## Useful Links

- <https://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe>
- <https://ec.europa.eu/culture/resources/annual-work-programmes>



**Creative  
Europe**

# Joint Cluster Initiatives [EUROCLUSTERS]

The Euroclusters will contribute to the implementation of the European Commission's New Industrial Strategy for Europe, as well as its updated Strategy that was published in May 2021 and the SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe adopted in March 2020, by building resilience and accelerating transition to green and digital economy.

The call's objectives cover the following topics:

- Network to improve the resilience of the EU industrial ecosystems by developing value chains interlinkages in the EU Single Market;
- Innovate for strategic autonomy to build capacity in the most critical supplies and technologies of their ecosystems;
- Adopt processes and technologies to reinforce transformation into a greener and more digital economy;
- Train to foster up- and re-skilling of the workforce whilst attracting talents;
- Go international to boost access to global supply and value chains.

## Project Examples

- Supporting EU SMEs to access third markets and generate growth from international activities
- Initiative to support reskilling and upskilling of EU workers
- Encouraging cluster consortia to work across sectoral boundaries
- Industrial deployment of innovative technologies
- Underwater farming

## Useful Links

- [https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/joint-cluster-initiatives-euroclusters-europes-recovery\\_en](https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/joint-cluster-initiatives-euroclusters-europes-recovery_en)

## Areas of Interest

- Tourism
- Mobility-transport-automotive
- Aerospace & defence
- Construction
- Agri-food
- Energy intensive industries
- Cultural industries
- Digital
- Renewable energy
- Electronics
- Retail
- Social economy
- Health



# Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund focuses on highly innovative technologies and big flagship projects within Europe that can bring about significant emission reductions. It is about sharing the risk with project promoters to help with the demonstration of first-of-a-kind highly innovative projects.

The fund is aimed at financing a varied project pipeline and achieving an optimal balance of a wide range of innovative technologies in all eligible sectors and Member States, Norway and Iceland. At the same time, the projects need to be sufficiently mature in terms of planning, business model, as well as their financial and legal structure.

The fund supports cross-cutting projects on innovative low-carbon solutions that lead to emission reductions in multiple sectors, for example, through industrial symbiosis.

The Fund is also open to small-scale projects with total capital costs under €7.5 million.

## Project Examples

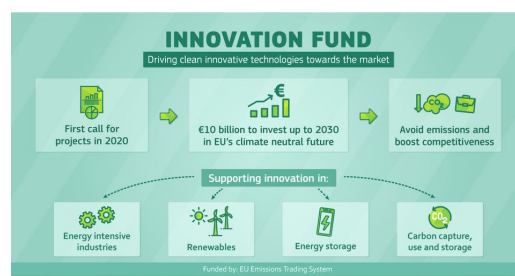
- Research towards new forms of renewable energy
- Innovating existing renewable energy technology
- Commission a study on the limitation of vehicles in Gozo's capital
- Algae farming in Gozo as a means of carbon capture
- Algae processing to be used as a fertilizer
- Offshore renewable energy platforms
- Underwater farming
- Photocatalyst to fight climate change

## Areas of Interest

- Innovative low-carbon technologies and processes in energy-intensive industries, including products substituting carbon-intensive ones
- Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU)
- Construction and operation of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)
- Innovative renewable energy generation
- Energy storage

## Useful Links

- [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/innovation-fund\\_en#tab-0-0](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/innovation-fund_en#tab-0-0)









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