

Call Text

MCST-TÜBİTAK 2023 Joint Call for Project Proposals

1. Introduction

In 2020, the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) (*referred to as the Managing Authorities*), signed a collaborative agreement to bilaterally support cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation between Malta and Türkiye. After the successful cooperation between the two Managing Authorities in launching the 1st and 2nd Joint Calls for Bilateral Project Proposals launched in 2021 and 2022, this year the Managing Authorities will be launching a 3rd Joint Call, in accordance with the framework of this said collaborative agreement.

2. Aim and Scope

This 3rd Joint Call will assist researchers and innovators from both countries to strengthen their scientific expertise and network, enabling them to collaborate further in future Calls for funding, including annual PRIMA Section 1 and Section 2 Calls. It will also introduce new Research & Development & Innovation (R&D&I) thematic areas for cooperation in addition to the PRIMA Programme thematic fields.

Therefore, the intent of this Call is to award three high-ranking projects, ideally including at least one PRIMA-related project.

Its aim is to further strengthen the research and innovation capacities of both countries in the following 4 thematic areas. Sub-topics listed should be considered as a non-comprehensive list of fields that can be addressed in project proposals:

1. PRIMA Programme Thematic Fields

- Water Management
- Farming Systems
- Agro-food Value Chain

2. Digital Technologies

- Artificial Intelligence
- Big Data and Data Analytics
- Cloud Computing

- Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT-Blockchain)
- Internet of Things
- Digital Games

3. Smart Manufacturing

- Sustainable manufacturing
- Flexible automation

4. Health

- Health Technologies
- Biotechnological drugs
- Advanced materials in health
- Artificial Intelligence in health
- Big Data and Cloud Computing in health
- Cybersecurity of health data

Within the scope of this Joint Call, two types of joint projects will be supported: 1. R&D and 2. R&D&I Projects. The Call operates through a one-stage submission process. One joint application form is available, and each Managing Authority will need to receive a copy of the submitted application by the designated deadline. Each Managing Authority has its own National Rules & Regulations. Thus, apart from adhering to the said requirements in this Call Text, applicants will also need to ensure that they abide by their own respective National Rules & Regulations.

The Rules and Regulations for the Maltese participants can be found in the FUNDING section of the MCST Website:

[https://mcst.gov.mt/funding-opportunities/;](https://mcst.gov.mt/funding-opportunities/)

<http://mcst.gov.mt/internationalisation/mcst-tubitak-joint-call-ri-proposals/>

TÜBİTAK will fund the Turkish side under the financial principles of TÜBİTAK 1071 Program:

- For R&D Projects:
https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projel_eri_surec_dokumani.pdf
- For R&D&I Projects:
https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_ar-ge_ve_yenilik_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf

3. Eligibility Conditions

Each project proposal shall need to be in accordance with the following requirements. However, apart from adhering to below eligibility requirements in this Call Text, applicants will also need to ensure that they abide by their own respective National Rules & Regulations:

- Each proposal for a joint research project must be submitted by researchers/innovators from at least one eligible legal entity based in Türkiye and at least one eligible legal entity based in Malta. These will be considered and referred to as ‘project partners’ for the duration of the project.
- The Turkish and Maltese partners shall form a project consortium and prepare a joint scientific project.
- Unilateral project applications are not accepted. Applications which are not received by both Managing Authorities will not be accepted for evaluation. Hence, Turkish/Maltese project leaders should make sure that their counterpart submits a matching application.
- Proposals must directly address the aim of the Call and needs to clearly align with at **least one of the thematic fields of this Call**.
- The projects will be implemented through the exchange of researchers and knowledge.
- Each collaborating side must have **one Principal Investigator (PI)**¹, representing the proposal consortium for each country.
- The PI of each country shall be responsible to submit the application form to his/her own Managing Authority.
- Based on the respective bilateral agreement between TÜBİTAK and MCST, each party will cover the costs of their own national team.
- While submitting the project proposal form, the costs which are requested in the scope of the project must be stated in detail and justified. The eligible and ineligible costs are also detailed in the National Rules & Regulations of each side. In the case of any exchange of researchers to be made within the scope of the projects, the sending party meets all the travel expenses.
- Each National Applicant shall need to consult with the **National Rules & Regulations** imposed by the corresponding Managing Authority. Applications which are found to be ineligible by one of the Managing Authorities will automatically render the whole proposal as ineligible.
- Only proposals that have a signed **cooperation and IP agreement** amongst the consortium partners will be eligible to apply.

¹ Principal Investigator (PI) refers to the Lead Researcher within the applying eligible entity.

- Proposals should strive to be **balanced** between the two countries with respect to the **volume of work and activities** and also in terms of **funding**.
- Applicants are eligible to submit **more than one proposal** under the Call. However, for proposals that have the same PI, and in the event that both are chosen for funding, only one of the projects will proceed to be funded.
- Proposals need to be written in **English**.

4. Call Snapshot

Scope	Under the 2023 Joint Call for Proposals of TÜBİTAK-MCST Bilateral R&I Projects, the following will be supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D Projects • R&D&I Projects 	
Thematic Fields & subfields	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PRIMA Programme Thematic Fields <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Management • Farming Systems • Agro-food Value Chain 2. Digital Technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial Intelligence • Big Data and Data Analytics • Cloud Computing • Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT-Blockchain) • Internet of Things • Digital Games 3. Smart Manufacturing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable manufacturing • Flexible automation 4. Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Technologies • Biotechnological drugs • Advanced materials in health • Artificial Intelligence in health • Big Data and Cloud Computing in health • Cybersecurity of health data 	
Launch of the Call	1 st March 2023	
Final date for online proposal submission	For TÜBİTAK: 15 th of May 2023, 23:59.	For MCST: 15 th May 2023, 23:59
Final date for electronic signatures' completion	For TÜBİTAK: 19 th May 2023, 23:59.	For MCST: N/A
Eligibility check	For TÜBİTAK: June-July 2023	For MCST: June-July 2023
Scientific Evaluation	July-August 2023	
Issuing of results	September-October 2023	

Project Duration	24 months	
Eligible applicant	<p>For TÜBİTAK: Detailed information about eligibility rules can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For R&D Projects: https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf For R&D&I Projects: https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_ar-ge_ve_yenilik_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf 	<p>For MCST: Detailed information about the eligibility rules can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://mcst.gov.mt/funding-opportunities/
Evaluation Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific/Technological Excellence ○ Methodology ○ Project Management ○ Importance of International Collaboration ○ Impact 	
Award parameters	<p>For TÜBİTAK: Funds up to 1,250,000 TL (excluding overhead and Project Incentive Premium - PIP) per project and three (3) successful projects under this Call.</p>	<p>For MCST: Overall amount of €300,000 for this Call, to fund three (3) successful projects with a budget of up to €100,000 each.</p>
Daily Allowance	<p>For TÜBİTAK: It will be provided within the scope of the provisions of per diem Law numbered 6245.</p>	<p>For MCST: As per National Rules and Regulations of the Call</p>
Duration of Travel	For each project, the total duration of scientific visits from one side to another (from Malta to Türkiye or from Türkiye to Malta) will not exceed 60 days/year.	
Coverage of Expenses	The funding agency is obliged to cover all expenses (including health insurance) for travel and accommodation of its own researchers in accordance with its own rules. No money crossing borders.	
How to apply	<p>For TÜBİTAK: Proposal submission is made through the TÜBİTAK's online submission system: http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr</p>	<p>For MCST: The application form can be downloaded from: https://mcst.gov.mt/funding-opportunities/ A complete national application form along with relevant annexes should be received by the submission deadline at prima.mcst@gov.mt</p>

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5. Eligibility Check

Each proposal received within the designated submission deadline shall pass through an administrative/eligibility check by both Managing Authorities. The administration/eligibility check procedure is defined in the respective National Rules & Regulations set forth by each Managing Authority. Applicants shall need to satisfy the criteria set forth by both Managing Authorities to be eligible to move forward to the scientific evaluation stage.

6. Scientific Evaluation

The proposals that are found administratively eligible will be scientifically evaluated by **three** Turkish- and **three** Maltese-nominated external reviewers.

Following the scientific evaluation by external reviewers, TÜBİTAK and MCST will exchange the Project Proposal Evaluation Forms for perusal.

The Managing Authorities will make their decisions by considering the evaluations of the external reviewers from both countries.

TÜBİTAK and MCST will select the project proposals to be funded during a joint committee meeting.

Only the project proposals which are approved by both TÜBİTAK and MCST will be supported within available budget.

The intent of this 3rd Call is to award three high-ranking projects, ideally including at least one PRIMA-related project.

7. Post-award

For successful projects, the beneficiary from each country will sign a Grant Agreement directly with the respective Managing Authority. The National Rules & Regulations will form an integral part of each respective Grant Agreement, which will further define the terms and conditions, including the funding disbursement schedule for both parties. Projects must start and end on the same date for all partners within the project consortium and should ideally start within 3 months from the date of publishing of the Call results.

Other requirements that are specifically required by each of the Managing Authorities shall need to be adhered to by the said counterparts.

2023 Joint Call for Proposals of MCST-TÜBİTAK Bilateral R&D&I Projects is part of the PRIMA Programme supported by the European Union.

