

Call Text

2021 Joint Call for Proposals of MCST-TÜBİTAK Bilateral R&I Projects

1. Introduction

In 2020, the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST) and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) (*referred to as the Managing Authorities*), signed a collaborative agreement to bilaterally support cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation between Malta and Turkey. The 2021 Joint Call for Proposals of MCST- TÜBİTAK Bilateral Research & Innovation (R&I) Projects is carried out in accordance with the framework of this said collaborative agreement.

2. Aim and Scope

The call aims to strengthen the research and innovation capacities in the fields of:

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

This Call is an integral part of the PRIMA Programme, as it aims to support R&I in the three priority areas defined in the PRIMA SRIA (Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda). Successful projects supported through this Call, will assist researchers and innovators from both countries to strengthen their scientific expertise and network, enabling them to collaborate further in future annual PRIMA Section 1 and Section 2 Calls.

Within the scope of this joint call, two types of joint projects will be supported: 1. Research and 2. R&D and Innovation 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/>

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

- For Research Projects:
https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projel_eri_surec_dokumani.pdf
- For R&D and Innovation 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 legal entity based in Turkey and one 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 submitted on both sides 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 three priority areas of PRIMA** (i.e. Water Management, Farming Systems and Agro-food value chains).
- The projects will be implemented through the exchange of researcher 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.

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

- 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 researcher 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.
- The proposal should be **novel and not correspond with on-going or completed projects** funded by other instruments, programmes or projects.
- Only proposals that have a signed **cooperation and IP agreement** amongst the consortium partners will be considered.
- 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 2021 Joint Call for Proposals of MCST-TÜBİTAK Bilateral R&I Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Projects • R&D and Innovation Projects will be supported.	
Thematic Fields & subfields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Management • Farming Systems • Agro-food Value Chains 	
Pre-announcement of the Call	February 2021	
Launch of the Call	1 st March 2021	
Final date for online proposal submission	For TÜBİTAK: 17 th of June 2021, 23:59.	For MCST: 17 th June 2021, 23:59
Final date for electronic signatures' completion	For TÜBİTAK: 22 nd of June 2021, 23:59.	For MCST: N/A
Eligibility check	For TÜBİTAK: July-August 2021	For MCST: July-August 2021
Scientific Evaluation	For TÜBİTAK:	For MCST:

	August-October 2021	August - October 2021
Issuing of results	November 2021	
Project Duration	24 Months	
Eligible applicant	<p>For the Turkish Team Detailed information about eligibility rules can be found at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Research Projects: https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_arastirma_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf • For R&D and Innovation Projects: https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_ar-ge_ve_yenilik_projeleri_surec_dokumani.pdf 	<p>For the Maltese Team Detailed information about the eligibility rules can be found at: https://mcst.gov.mt/funding-opportunities/</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>For the Turkish Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific/Technological Excellence ○ Methodology ○ Project Management ○ Importance of International Collaboration ○ Impact 	<p>For the Maltese Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scientific/Technological Excellence ○ Methodology ○ Project Management ○ Importance of International Collaboration ○ Impact
Award parameters	<p>For the Turkish Team TUBITAK funds up to 720.000 TL per project (excluding overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP)).</p>	<p>For the Maltese Team MCST will provide the overall amount of €200,000 for this Call, to fund two (2) successful projects with a budget of up to €100,000 each.</p>
Daily Allowance:	<p>For the Turkish Team It will be provided within the scope of the provisions of per diem Law numbered 6245.</p>	<p>For the Maltese Team 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 Turkey or from Turkey 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 researcher in accordance with its own rules. No money crossing borders.	

How to apply	<p>For the Turkish Team Proposal submission is made through the TÜBİTAK's online submission system: http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr</p>	<p>For the Maltese Team The application form can be downloaded from: https://mcst.gov.mt/funding-opportunities/</p>
Program Contact	<p>TÜBİTAK Ayşe SAYIN ÜKE Program Coordinator International Cooperation Department-Bilateral and Multilateral Relations Division TUBITAK Tunus Cad. No: 80 Kavaklıdere 06100 ANKARA TURKEY T +90 312 298 1795 www.tubitak.gov.tr uidb@tubitak.gov.tr</p> <p>TÜBİTAK Esra Burcu YAMAK Scientific Programs Expert International Cooperation Projects Research Grant Committee (UPAG) TUBITAK (Ek Hizmet Binası) İşçi Blokları Mahallesi Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu Cad. No: 51/C 06520 Çankaya, ANKARA TURKEY T +90 312 298 1812 www.tubitak.gov.tr burcu.yamak@tubitak.gov.tr</p>	<p>MCST Corinne Muscat Terribile Program Coordinator Internationalisation Unit MCST Marina Street Kalkara, Malta +356 23602152 prima.mcst@gov.mt</p> <p>MCST Maria AZZOPARDI Call Manager Internationalisation Unit MCST Marina Street Kalkara, Malta +356 23602175 prima.mcst@gov.mt</p>

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. For applications to

be eligible to move forward to the scientific evaluation stage, applicants shall need to satisfy the criteria set forth by both Managing Authorities.

6. Scientific Evaluation

Each Managing Authority will follow their own scientific evaluation process as defined in the National Rules & Regulations. As a result of the scientific evaluation processes conducted by the Managing Authorities, they will share the evaluation results with each other. The final decision is taken by the Joint Committee that has equal representation of experts from both Managing Authorities. The Joint Committee will choose to fund the projects among the ones that have been evaluated as the most successful projects by both Managing Authorities' evaluation processes, depending on the following call criteria:

- Scientific / Technological Excellence
- Methodology
- Project Management
- Importance of the international collaboration
- Impact

7. Post-award

For successful projects, the PI 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 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.

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

2021 Joint Call for Proposals of MCST-TÜBİTAK Bilateral R&I Projects is part of the PRIMA Programme supported by the European Union.

