

# MDIA AI Applied Research Grant (MAARG)

## Application Form

# 1 Section 1 – Executive Summary

## 1.1 Executive Summary

<b>Scheme</b>					
MDIA AI Applied Research Grant (MAARG)					
Project Title:					
Project Summary:					
Expected Start Date		Expected End Date			
<b>Grant Required</b>					
Amount of public funding needed for the project					€
<b>Total Financial Plan</b>					
<b>Eligible</b>	€	<b>VAT Eligible<sup>1</sup></b>	€	<b>Total Eligible</b>	€
<b>Non-Eligible</b>	€	<b>VAT Non-Eligible</b>	€	<b>Total Non-Eligible</b>	€
				<b>Total</b>	€

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<sup>1</sup> VAT is considered eligible for funding if the entity applying for funding is 'exempt without credit', and cannot claim back input VAT.

## 2 Section 2 – The Applicant

### 2.1 Applicant Details

Details	Public Research Institution	Other participants (If applicable)
Legal Name of Applicant		
Authorized Representative		
ID No. of authorized representative		
e-mail Address		
Legal Form of applicant	N/A	(Choose option) Registered Company Partnership Self Employed Co-operative Society Research Institution Other (Please indicate)
Registration/Identification number of applicant (If applicable)		
Date Established		
Registered Address		
Phone Number		
VAT Number (If applicable)		
Website Address (If applicable)		
Project Owner / Manager details	Public research Institution	Other participants (If applicable)
Project Owner / Manager Name and Surname		
ID No.		
Position within Entity		
Phone Number		
e-mail Address		

## 2.2 Applicant's Core Business Activities (If Private Sector Entity is collaborating with Applicant)

NACE Code	(eg.) 58.29	(e.g.) Other software publishing

Please provide an outline of the Applicant's core business activities (providing a background description of the organisation and its operations) (If applicable)

### 3 Section 3 – The Project

#### 3.1 Project Details

Kindly provide the address where the proposed project will be implemented	
Address	
Post Code	

#### 3.1.1 Proposed Initiative

Define the project by describing the proposed work, specifying its main characteristics.
What would the impact on the proposed initiative be without the assistance being applied for through this Funding Programme?

#### 3.2 Project Excellence

Define the project excellence by describing the proposed work, in terms of:
a) How the proposed research enhances the field of AI. (15 points)
b) How the proposed advancement addresses a gap in a specific sector. (15 points)

### 3.3 Project Impact and Sustainability

Describe how this project will impact your organisation in relation to each of the following:
a) Potential future benefits to the applicant in terms of increased economic or research opportunities, or increased international presence and reputation. (15 points)
b) Describe how the project ties in with the relevant National Policies and Strategies, clearly outlining the contribution of the project towards National Priorities as identified in official documents, such as Malta's official AI Strategy ( <a href="http://www.malta.ai">www.malta.ai</a> ) (15 points)

### 3.4 Project Quality and Efficiency of Implementation

Identify the level of management and control systems in place. (10 points)

### 3.5 Quality of Project Participants

Identify the project participants and provide details on their technical knowledge and capabilities related to AI and AI research. Please also ensure CVs of all key project participants are included as supporting documentation to this application. (10 points)
Demonstrate the level of capacity and allocation of resources (human and physical resources) being dedicated towards the project to ensure its successful implementation and sustainability (5 points)

### 3.6 Project Risk Assessment

Please outline the anticipated project timeline, being sure to include all key project activities and demonstrate that adequate contingency periods have been considered. Due consideration will be given to applicants who demonstrate work plan clarity and coherence. Please also refer to Section 5 below and ensure that all project activities are adequately reflected in the Project Gantt Chart. (15 points)

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Identify and describe any risks that might impact the implementation of the project and indicate the probability of these risks happening. How do you intend to mitigate these risks? Max 0 (-5 points lowest score)

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## 4 Section 4 – Financial Plan

### 4.1 Financial Plan

Eligible Costs		Total Eligible (€) (specify €Nil if not applicable)
A	Wages and Salaries for personnel	
B	Procurement and/or rental of equipment, plant and machinery	
C	Procurement of software and/or purchases of software/platform licences	
D	Project overheads (not exceeding 10% of total eligible expenditure of the project)	
E	VAT charged on eligible expenditure	
	<b>Total Eligible (€)</b>	



## 4.2 Financial Plan per project phase<sup>2</sup>

Phase	Activity	Expected timeline of sub-activity (Start date – end date)	Total Eligible (€)	Total Eligible VAT (€)
			<b>Total (€)</b>	<b>Total (€)</b>

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<sup>2</sup> Note that the total eligible cost for section 4.1 has to be equal to the total eligible costs for both private enterprises and public research institutions under section 4.2

## **5 Section 5 - Project Timeline**

### **5.1 Gantt Chart**

Insert a Gantt chart clearly showing Project Activities and Sub-activities as indicated in Section 4.



## 6 Section 6 – Additional Information

### 6.1 Additional Information

Please provide any additional information relating to previous sections which you feel is relevant. Insert the information by using the section and sub-section reference number relevant to this call, for ease of reference.

## **7 Section 7 – Declaration**

### **7.1 Declaration Form**

I declare that the Applicant and/or the Private Sector Entity is/are not subject to an outstanding recovery order following a Commission decision declaring an aid granted by Malta illegal and incompatible with the internal market.

I declare that I will notify the MDIA of any modification of the approved financial plan and to seek in advance approval from the MDIA should modifications to the approved activities and/or actions be necessary.

I declare that all supplies and services will be procured from external sources unrelated to the Beneficiary.

I declare that I have all the necessary permits in hand.

I declare that the Applicant has no pending obligations further to a recovery order issued by the competent authorities responsible for the administration and management of aid schemes co-funded under Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020 and Cohesion Policy 2007 - 2013, or any decisions by the competent court related to any such recovery orders.

I declare that the Applicant has not been approved or granted any public funding, and will not seek public funding through other National and/or European Union funded initiatives in relation to the activities for which assistance is being requested through this application. This includes schemes under Cohesion Policy and any other European Union instruments or through any other form of Public Funding including schemes administered through National Funds.

I declare that the collaborating Private Sector Entity (if applicable) is not ‘an undertaking in difficulty’, as defined under Article 2(18) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 based on the audited Accounts/Annual Accounts declared within the previous two (2) years prior to the year of this declaration.

I declare that the Applicant shall ensure compliance with the rules on cumulation of aid in line with Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 and enacted amendments by way of Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1084 of 14 June 2017 and Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/972 of 2 July 2020, Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/452 of 15 March 2021, and Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021.

The Private Sector Entity shall ensure compliance with the rules surrounding De Minimis exemptions for state aid in line with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid and enacted amendments by way of Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/972 of 2 July 2020.

I confirm that the Applicant is in compliance with applicable EU and national legislation and administrative requirements, including fulfilment of fiscal obligations and social security contributions.

I declare that the S.L. 343.23 Manpower records (Commencement or Termination of employment) Regulations are being fully adhered to in respect of the Applicant, as outlined in Section 2.1 of this application. I declare that no work has started on the action for which assistance for activities is being requested and work shall only be initiated following the date of the granting of the aid pursuant to the approval of this application and the eventual signing of the Grant Agreement. I declare that the Applicant will maintain operational the project in line with the respective regulations as outlined in the Guidance Notes for this scheme. I can confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, there are no obstacles in continuing the project or sustaining the benefits gained from the project following the end of the scheme.

I declare that by submitting this application, I am hereby giving my consent for the publication of information related to the enterprise and the project (including budget). I understand that any personal data submitted to the MDIA in relation to this application is processed, in accordance with the Provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and any amendments thereof.

I acknowledge that a Grant Agreement will be signed on the basis of the information provided in this document and accept that the MDIA will conduct the necessary checks to confirm eligibility in line with the Grant Scheme and relevant Regulations, and reserves the right to revoke the grant in cases where variations detected result in the Applicant becoming ineligible.

On behalf of the Applicant, I authorise the MDIA to make enquiries with the Malta Association of Credit Management to carry out the necessary checks in line with the Regulations and Good Governance principles and to make enquiries with competent Authorities, including but not limited to JobsPlus, to verify any information submitted in relation to this application and to conduct checks to establish the eligibility of this application.

I declare that the entries in this Declaration form, the details in the whole Application Form which is being submitted and any other annexes enclosed are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct. I understand that should it result otherwise, the project application may be rejected or lead to an eventual recovery of funds.

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Authorised Representative of the  
Applicant

(Name in Block Letters)

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Signature

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Date of Declaration

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ID No.

## 7.2 State Aid Declaration (De Minimis)

This declaration shall be submitted as a supporting document with applications for government grants subject to the *De Minimis* State Aid rules in line with Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid, as amended.

Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 allows a 'single undertaking' to receive an aggregate maximum amount of *de minimis* aid of €200,000 under all *de minimis* aid measures, over a period of three 'fiscal years'. This maximum threshold would include all State aid granted under this scheme and any other State aid measure granted under the de minimis rule.

This aggregate maximum threshold applies in principle to all economic sectors with the exception of a 'single undertaking' performing road freight transport for hire or reward for which a lower de minimis threshold of €100,000 over any period of three 'fiscal years' applies. The agriculture and fisheries sectors are subject to different thresholds and criteria.

For the purpose of this declaration the term 'single undertaking' shall have the meaning as established in Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013. Moreover 'fiscal year' means the fiscal year as used for tax purposes by the undertaking concerned.

The following is an indicative list of the possible forms of State aid:

- Grants from public bodies;
- Loans or loan guarantees at favourable rates;
- Tax benefits;
- Waiving or deferral of fees or interest normally due;
- Marketing and advertising assistance;
- Consultancy, training and other support provided either for free or at a reduced rate;
- Aid for investment in environmental projects or research and development assistance; and
- Purchase, rent, or lease of immovable property at less than market rate.

Potentially, any assistance from a public body may constitute State aid. Should you have any doubts whether any public assistance received is *de minimis* aid, you should contact the agency or department from which the assistance was received in order to ascertain this or seek legal advice. Any de minimis state aid awarded to you under this project will have to be declared if you apply, or have applied, for any other de minimis aid.

## **DECLARATION**

I declare that a comprehensive amount of de minimis aid received to date during the current fiscal year and the previous two fiscal years is:

<b>Fiscal Year 2019</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2020</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2021</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
€	€	€	€

A breakdown of the source, type and amount of all *de minimis* aid received as well as that applied for from any State aid grantor, is presented overleaf. *(If no de minimis aid was received kindly mark as Nil).*

I am aware that support provided is State Aid and I am under an obligation to present a full and accurate disclosure of any relevant information relating to State Aid received in my name and or by my company or by my company shareholders.

I am aware that the scheme administrator will be required to contact any entity that offers any scheme which is de minimis regulated to verify and share information as provided on this form to:

- Make sure the information is accurate,
- To ensure that the threshold has not been exceeded, and
- To protect public funds.

I acknowledge that any de minimis aid received in excess of the established threshold will have to be recovered, with interest, from the undertaking receiving the aid.



By signing this form, I agree that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained on the form is complete and is not false.

Name of Undertaking:	
Undertaking's Registration No.:	
Address:	
Mobile number:	
Telephone number:	
Email Address:	
VAT number:	
Name and Surname of representative:	
Identity card number:	
Date:	
Signature:	

**DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING APPLICABLE STATE AID UNDER THE DE MINIMIS RULE.**

*(Note: Information should include both State aid received as well as applications for de minimis State aid still pending approval by potential grantors)*

**Section 1 – De Minimis State Aid Awarded**

Date Awarded	Granting Authority	Title of Scheme	Type of State Aid	Amount in €

**Section 2 – De Minimis State Aid still pending for approval**

Date Awarded	Granting Authority	title of scheme	Type of State Aid	Amount in €

**Section 3 – De Minimis State Aid Requested in this application**

Date Awarded	Granting Authority	title of scheme	Type of State Aid	Amount in €

<b>Total of Sections 1, 2 and 3 above:</b>	<b>€</b>
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## 8 Section 8 – Checklist of Attachments

### 8.1 Checklist of Attachments

<b>Documents Checklist</b>
Project Description*
Declaration Form (Including State Aid (De Minimis) Declaration) *
CVs of Key Project Participants*
Additional Supporting Documentation**

\* These items are obligatory

\*\* These items are to be uploaded only when necessary

NB: the applicant is kindly requested to name the uploaded files in line with the table above.