

PKF Malta



## Malta Business Enhance Grant Schemes 2023

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, GLOBAL EXPERTISE

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## *Available Grant Schemes for Your Business To grow and transform.*

Every business needs to ensure that growth prospects are clear and that resources to achieve that desired goal are available. However, the market environment is currently becoming more uncertain, which might hinder businesses' capacity to acquire finance and, eventually, prevent them from being able to implement their business strategies. These uncertainties also pose a threat to many firms that have just recently begun to recover from the pandemic's impact.

The Maltese Government, with support from the European Union, has acknowledged the importance of supporting enterprises, particularly the small and medium ones, not only to achieve growth but more importantly embrace digitalization and sustainable technology and practices.

Currently, there are two business enhancement schemes available:

### **1. Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes**

By virtue of over €40 Million in financial grant, the Business Enhance Grant Schemes, part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund 2021-2027, aim to support SMES to achieve sustainable business growth and become more competitive, innovative, and resilient to market challenges.

### **2. Recovery and Resilience Plan Schemes**

Backed by the Next Generation EU, the funds shall total up to €35 Million. These grant schemes aim to address green and digital transitions. Through these schemes, Malta shall be able to contribute to the sustainable, equitable, green, and digital recovery efforts that complement and support the goals of the European Union and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

# Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes

Open Calls as of June 13, 2023:  
SME Enhance (de minimis)

## Purpose

This incentive seeks to support SMEs through non-repayable Grants to part-finance investment towards expansion, diversification, innovation of the operations and initial investment, aimed at potentially improving the productivity of the enterprise

## Who is eligible?

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form

## What are the benefits?

This scheme will part-finance 50% of the eligible costs with a minimum funding amount of €10,000 and maximum funding amount of €120,000 per operation. Investments in Gozo will benefit from an additional 10% aid intensity.

## What are the qualifying activities?

SMEs undertaking productive investments in Tangible and Intangible assets related to initial investment including expansion, diversification, innovation of the operations

## What are the eligible costs?

- Costs for the purchasing of equipment, plant and machinery required.
- Costs for the purchasing of ancillary items (these costs shall be capped at 10% of the eligible cost)
- Costs for leasing of privately owned operational premises for the duration of 2 years (shall be capped at 20% of the eligible cost of the main component)

## Cut-off Dates

- 30th June 2023 – noon
- 31st July 2023
- 31st August 2023
- 29th September 2023
- 31st October 2023
- 30th November 2023

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[1] [FONDI.eu](https://fondi.eu) | [SME Enhance \(de minimis\)](#)



# Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes

## 2. SME Enhance (GBER)

### Rationale

SMEs are significant contributors of economic growth thus through the grants, the SMEs become more innovative, employ more people and result in, increased productivity and a more resilient economy.

### Purpose

This incentive seeks to support SMEs through non-repayable Grants to part-finance investment towards expansion, diversification, innovation of the operations and initial investment, aimed at potentially improving the productivity of the enterprise.

### Who is eligible?

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form

### What are the benefits?

The maximum funding amount is €500,000 per operation and the minimum is €10,000 with the following aid intensity:

- Gozo: 35% for micro and small, 25% for medium
- Within Malta's Regional Aid map: 30% for micro and small, 20% for medium
- Outside Malta's Regional Aid map: 20% for micro and small, and 10% for medium enterprises

### What are the qualifying activities?

SMEs undertaking productive investments in Tangible and Intangible assets related to initial investment including expansion, diversification, innovation of the operations

### Cut-off Dates

- 30th June 2023 – noon
- 31st July 2023
- 31st August 2023
- 29th September 2023
- 31st October 2023
- 30th November 2023

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[2] [FONDI.eu](https://fondi.eu) | [SME Enhance \(GBER\)](#)

# Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes

## 3. Start-Up enhance

### Rationale

Establishment of start-ups is a means of stimulating economic growth since more businesses in Malta will result in employment opportunities and attract investors and contribute to the overall productivity and development of the economy.

### Purpose

This incentive seeks to support Start-ups through non-repayable Grants to part-finance investments in tangible and intangible assets contributing to potentially improve the productivity of the enterprise.

### Who is eligible?

Micro, Small Enterprises

### What are the benefits?

The scheme will part-finance 50% of the eligible costs with a minimum funding amount of €10,000 and maximum funding amount of €400,000 per operation. Investments in Gozo will benefit from an additional 10% aid intensity.

### What are the qualifying activities?

Start-ups undertaking productive investments in tangible and intangible assets contributing to improving the productivity of the enterprise

### What are the eligible costs?

- Costs for the purchasing of equipment, plant and machinery required.
- Costs for the purchasing of ancillary items (these costs shall be capped at 10% of the eligible cost)
- Costs for leasing of privately owned operational premises (shall be capped at 20% of the eligible cost of the main component)

### Cut-off Dates

- 30th June 2023 – noon
- 31st July 2023
- 31st August 2023
- 29th September 2023
- 31st October 2023
- 30th November 2023

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[3] [FONDI.eu](https://fondi.eu) | [Start-Up Enhance](#)



# Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes

## 4. Business Reports for SMEs

### Rationale

SMEs generally have limited in-house talent and expertise thus they may engage the external consultancy services who have great insights and expertise who can share significant ideas which can be used as a reference in the SMEs decision making process.

### Purpose

This Grant Scheme seeks to support SMEs through the provision of non-repayable Grants to part-finance a business report procured from external Consultancy Service Providers which are registered with the IB and which are autonomous and unrelated to the Beneficiary Undertaking.

### Who is eligible?

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

### What are the benefits?

Grant value is set at a lump sum of €4,000 (representing an aid intensity of 80% of the eligible costs)

### What are the eligible costs?

The costs of business Plans or Process and Systems Review procured from an external Consultancy Service Provider which is registered with the IB and is autonomous and unrelated to the Beneficiary Undertaking.

### Cut-off Dates

- 16th June 2023 – Noon
- 30th June 2023
- 14th July 2023
- 31st July 2023
- 16th August 2023
- 31st August 2023
- 15th September 2023
- 29th September 2023
- 16th October 2023
- 31st October 2023
- 17th November 2023
- 30th November 2023

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[4] [FONDI.eu](https://fondi.eu) | [Business Reports for SMEs](#)

# Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes

## 5. Digitalise your Micro Business

### Rationale

- Investing in digitalisation generally results to greater efficiency of micro enterprises, this can be because of reduced errors as the manual paperwork is eliminated.
- Digitalisation can also improve the resilience of the micro businesses as they can remain in operation in the event of uncertain disruptions, they can still retain their clients and continue to serve them online.
- Digitalisation of micro business can result to growth and expansion of the businesses as the microbusinesses can extend their services beyond the physical locations and attract more customers especially through the social media websites.

### Purpose

This incentive seeks to assist Micro Enterprises to digitalise their operations, and hence improve their resilience, efficiency, productivity, and customer experience.

### Who is eligible?

Micro Enterprises

### What are the benefits?

This scheme will part-finance 50% of the eligible costs with a maximum funding amount of €10,000 per digitalisation investment in digital technologies per operation. Investments in Gozo will benefit from an additional 10% aid intensity.

### What are the qualifying activities?

- Digitalising the management system of resources
- Using new machines based on digital technologies that can improve the production of goods.
- New software and programs
- Digital marketing and online channels



# Business Enhance ERDF Grant Schemes

## 5. Digitalise your Micro Business

### What are the eligible costs?

- Investments made to provide digital Solutions.
- Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS)
- Hardware (such as Laptops, Docking Station, Port Replicator, Monitors, Tablets)
- Cloud computing
- Training costs on the use of the specific item acquired under the points above and included in the purchase price of the item in question, and thus from the same provider

### Cut-off Dates

- 16th June 2023
- 30th June 2023
- 14th July 2023
- 31st July 2023
- 16th August 2023
- 31st August 2023
- 15th September 2023
- 29th September 2023
- 16th October 2023
- 31st October 2023
- 17th November 2023
- 30th November 2023
- 15th December 2023
- 29th December 2023

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[5] [FONDI.eu](https://fondi.eu) | [Digitalise your Micro Business](#)





# Recovery & Resilience Plan Schemes

## Open Calls as of June 13, 2023: I. SME Digitalisation Grant Scheme

### Purpose

This scheme seeks to support digitalisation investment initiatives by SMEs in several economic sectors, as part of their digitalisation endeavours and when seeking to intensify the digitalisation of operations.

### Who is eligible?

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

### What are the benefits?

The maximum funding amount is at €50,000 per digitalization investment, part-financing up to 50% of eligible expenditure in Malta and 60% for Gozo.

### What are the qualifying activities?

- Digitalising the management system of resources;
- Using new machines based on digital technologies can improve the production of goods;
- New software and programs;
- Digital marketing and online channels
- E-Commerce Website
- Digital Solutions

### What are the eligible costs?

- Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) and Custom Software
- Hardware (such as Laptops, Docking Stations, Port Replicator, Monitors, and Tablets)
- Analytical Tools (including necessary hardware and software)
- Cyber Security systems
- Cloud computing
- Routers, switches and WIFI-related equipment
- Other hardware and software
- Training costs on the use of the specific item acquired under points above and included in the purchase price of the item in question, and thus from the same provider

### Cut-off Dates

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • 16th June 2023   | • 31st August 2023    |
| • 30th June 2023   | • 15th September 2023 |
| • 14th July 2023   | • 29th September 2023 |
| • 31st July 2023   | • 16th October 2023   |
| • 16th August 2023 | • 31st October 2023   |
|                    | • 17th November 2023  |
|                    | • 30th November 2023  |
|                    | • 15th December 2023  |
|                    | • 29th December 2023  |

[1] [FONDI.eu](https://fondi.eu) | [SME Digitalisation Grant](#)

# Recovery & Resilience Plan Schemes

## 2. Digital Intensification Grant Scheme

### Purpose

This grant scheme aims to support enterprises, with a specific focus on those on the manufacturing and tourism industries through investments in digital technologies and related processes.

### Who is eligible?

Enterprises engaged in economic activity, irrespective of their legal form

### What are the benefits?

The maximum funding amount is at €200,000 per digitalization investment, with the following aid intensity:

- Gozo: 35% for micro and small, 25% for medium, and 15% for large enterprises
- Within Malta's Regional Aid map: 30% for micro and small, 20% for medium, 10% for large
- Outside Malta's Regional Aid map: 20% for micro and small, and 10% for medium enterprises

### What are the qualifying activities?

Investments may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Investments and solutions related to product lifecycle management
- Life cycle analysis
- Cloud Based Platforms
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Cyber security and data protection
- Cyber-physical system
- Augmented reality
- Artificial intelligence (AI)
- Circular manufacturing
- Autonomous solutions
- Big data and data management
- Decision support systems.

### What are the eligible costs?

- Hardware
- Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) and Custom Software

#### Other Digital Solutions

- Installation including any training costs on the use of the specific item acquired under points listed above and included in the purchase price of the item in the question, and thus from the same provider.

### Cut-off Dates

- 30th June 2023

The Scheme will remain operational until 31 December 2023

[2] [FONDI.eu](https://fondi.eu) | [Digital Intensification Grant](#)

# Recovery & Resilience Plan Schemes

## 3. Renovation of Private Sector Buildings

### Rationale

Renovation of buildings has a direct relationship with improved energy efficiency, reduced energy demand, lower carbon emissions and limited energy waste. These are major milestones towards Malta achieving its sustainability goals.

### Purpose

The scheme seeks to support investments to address high upfront costs of building renovations in the private sector, namely commercial buildings.

### Who is eligible?

Micro, Small, and Medium and large Enterprises

### What are the benefits?

The scheme will part-finance eligible costs up to a maximum €350 per m<sup>2</sup> (capped at €1M per undertaking) with varied aid intensities.

If investment leads to a PED reduction of at least 30%

- Aid intensity in Gozo will be 55% for micro and small, 45% for medium, and 35% for large enterprises.
- Aid intensity in Malta will be 50% for micro and small, 40% for medium, and 30% for large enterprises.

If investment leads to a PED reduction of at least 40%

- Aid intensity in Gozo will be 70% for micro and small, 60% for medium, and 50% for large enterprises.
- Aid intensity in Malta will be 65% for micro and small, 55% for medium, and 35% for large enterprises.

### What are the qualifying activities?

Initial investment in tangible and intangible assets related to:

- the extension of the capacity of an existing establishment,
- the setting up of a new establishment.

### What are the eligible costs?

All investment costs relating to the energy efficiency works. These investments reduce the primary energy demand of the building and the energy used for heating, cooling, ventilation, hot water, and lighting.

### Cut off dates

The scheme will remain operational until 31 December 2023

[3] [FONDI.eu](https://fondi.eu/) | Renovation of Private Sector Buildings

## How can we Help?

### **Don't miss out on the opportunity!**

PKF can assist and advise you to choose the best scheme tailored to your needs, as well as in the preparation and application stage.

PKF are equipped with the necessary resources dexterity and skills required to take you to the next stage of realising your inner genius having both start-up and SMEs in your portfolio, lends us a familiarity that is only amassed through experience garnered. Being an SME, allows us not only to empathise but also to sympathise with our growth-seeking clients.

Finally, we listen where to listen is key to entrepreneurial enhancement.



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