



Funded by the
European Union

EIT Regional Innovation Booster Malta 2026

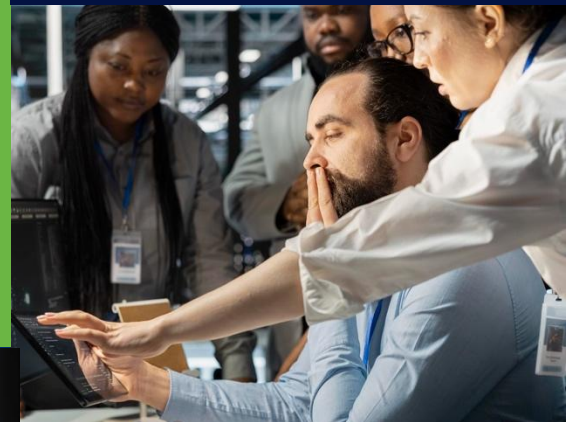
Exclusive Programme for
Malta's Top Startups &
Scaleups



UP TO €90K
SUPPORT AND
EXPERT
MENTORING



YOUR FAST TRACK
TO EU MARKETS &
FUNDING



About European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)



70+

Hubs across
Europe



9 900+

Ventures
Supported



71 BILLION

Valuation of EIT
start-ups



2 420+

Leading Partners



880 000+

Learners trained



9.5 BILLION

Investment raised
by EIT ventures

PARTNERS:



EIT Regional Innovation Booster

BUILT EXCLUSIVELY FOR MALTESE STARTUPS

Funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) in partnership with Xjenza Malta, this programme gives TRL7+ companies a structured, expert-backed path to EU markets - with real money attached.



Non-dilutive grants up to €90K



Access to EU markets in Italy, Germany, France



Expert mentoring + investor matchmaking

PARTNERS:





Why this programme changes everything for your startup



Direct Access to Funding Beyond just advice, we provide a clear pathway to Xjenza Malta grants, enabling you to fund the "heavy lifting" of international expansion - from key talent acquisition to the operational costs of entering a new territory.



High-Level European Partnerships We leverage the immense power of the EIT Community to plug you directly into European innovation ecosystems. You will move from being a local player to a recognized partner within the largest innovation network in Europe.



Strategic Market Entry We solve the "market-fit" puzzle by pairing you with RIB Buddies - local industry insiders who de-risk your expansion by providing deep-market intelligence and direct, warm introductions to decision-makers.



Is this programme for you?

WHO SHOULD APPLY

- **Startup or scaleup registered and keeping operation in Malta**
- **TRL 7 or higher**
- **You own the IPR or full exploitation rights of your solution**
- **Solving a real problem in one of the supported innovation areas**

SUPPORTED INNOVATION AREAS

- **Healthcare**
- **Metals, minerals, industrial side streams**
- **Food & Agritech**
- **Energy and Renewables**
- **Urban Mobility**
- **Digital**
- **Climate**
- **Culture, audiovisual, creative sector**



PARTNERS:



What would the journey look like?

The EIT Regional Innovation Booster programme in Malta in 2026/2027 will be organised in three interconnected stages. This means that only participants who successfully complete Stage 1 will be eligible to apply for Stage 2, and so on.

1

STAGE 1:
MARKET ENTRY STRATEGY AND READINESS



2

STAGE 2:
MARKET TAPPING AND COMMERCIAL EXECUTION



3

STAGE 3:
INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE AND INVESTORS
SCOUTING



PARTNERS:



STAGE 1 Market Entry Strategy and Readiness

When: August - September 2026

Format: hybrid

12 spots only

During these 8 weeks, you stop guessing and start executing

- 2 intensive bootcamps (1 onsite + 1 online) led by top European experts
- Topics: scaling strategy, commercial & financial planning, investment readiness, marketing
- You build your first Market Landing Roadmap — a concrete plan to enter your chosen EU market
- 1:1 mentoring tailored to your startup's stage
- Geography-focused streams: deep dive into Italy, Germany or France — you pick one



What you walk away with:

- A validated internationalisation strategy
- A confirmed target market
- Expert connections and a clear path to Stage 2 funding

PARTNERS:



STAGE 2 Market tapping and commercial execution

When: October – December 2026

Format: online

Up to 6 startups

Grant up to €50,000

During these 3 months:

- Your dedicated **RIB Buddy** — a local market expert in your target country — opens doors no cold outreach ever could
- Hands-on guidance on pricing, positioning and go-to-market strategy
- Warm introductions to real clients, strategic partners and investors
- Online matchmaking + optional travel to EIT Community events in your target country
- You finalise your **Market Landing Roadmap** and present it to the evaluation panel
- Deliver **Letters of Intent** with potential clients or partners



What you walk away with:

- A fully finalised Market Landing Roadmap
- First commercial traction in your target EU market
- Letters of Intent with real clients or partners
- A shortlist of investors who know your name

PARTNERS:



STAGE 3 International exposure and investors scouting

When: January – April 2027

Format: online

Up to 4 startups

Grant up to €40,000

During these 4 months:

- Tailor-made support to secure strategic partners and investors in your target market
- 1:1 progress monitoring — track milestones, close gaps, accelerate execution
- Support in converting Letters of Intent into **formal contracts**
- Enter serious investor discussions
- Access to EIT KICs thematic events and international matchmaking
- Optional: **UK market access** via EIT UK Hub
- Final **Investor Pitch Event** — present directly to corporates and ecosystem stakeholders



What you walk away with:

- Contracts signed. Revenue unlocked.
- Investors at the table, term sheet in hand.
- Champion status — and Europe's most powerful innovation network behind you.

PARTNERS:



How to apply?

The application will be made through the EIT Application Platform.

Proposal Submission deadline is set for **15 July 2026, 23.59 CEST.**

It is recommended to begin the application process on the EIT Application platform at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline.

APPLY HERE:



All applications for the programme must be completed as follows:

- 1 Applicants must fill in all required information tabs in the application **form**
- 2 Applicants must introduce a project team consisting of 2 to any number of participants.
- 3 Proposals must be in English. Proposals in other languages will not be accepted.
- 4 Incomplete submissions or submissions via any other means (e.g. email) will be rejected.
- 5 Proposals must be submitted before the deadline; all late applications will be rejected.

PARTNERS:



Eligibility criteria

1 Company Stage & Type:

- The entity is a for-profit small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) according to the [EU definition](#).
- Only registered legal entities are eligible to apply; sole entrepreneurs are not permitted.
- The entity must be registered and keeping operation in Malta prior to the launch of the call.
- SME applies alone, not in the consortium.
- The entity must have a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 7 or higher. The solution must demonstrate clear potential for commercialisation and scalability.
- The entity needs to be owner of the IPR or full exploitation rights of the solution that will be promoted in the new market.

2 Participation Requirements

- The entity must have at least 1-2 FTEs working at the time of the proposal submission.
- The entity must have a CEO engaged at least part-time in the company at the time of the proposal submission.

Note: A maximum number of two co-founding members or management representatives per entity is eligible to take part in the EIT RIB programme to ensure the high quality and comfortable conditions of the training activities. In justified cases, the EIT RIB Coordinator may allow the participation of more team members in specific activities.

Important: To be eligible for Stage 2, the entity must have at least a CEO, CTO, or COO engaged on a full-time basis by the end of Stage 1.

Give & Get

WE GIVE YOU

- Business Skills & Market-specific knowledge, including market benchmarking, regulations, distribution channels etc.
- Support in development of an internationalisation roadmap to support your growth, along with a financial plan for internationalisation activities.
- Access to potential clients and partners who can support your commercial deployment in the chosen market
- Guidance on the IP protection in EU and de minimis grants
- Industry connections and one-to-one mentoring with industry experts,
- A chance to be selected to the Stage 2 and 3 and receive grants up to 90.000 EUR

YOU GIVE BACK

- Time and dedication – intensive second half of 2026
- Place logo of the EIT Community on your website
- Promote the programme and provide support to other founders, exchange best practices and report your progress

PARTNERS:



The application must be within the scope of the main challenges:



Place-Based Transformations (Climate KIC):

Driving climate action locally through planning, mapping, analyzing, engaging, designing, testing, and investing in solutions across cities, bioregions, and value chains.

[Learn more](#)



Healthcare (EIT Health):

Innovating healthcare delivery, promoting digital medical devices, harnessing health data, and supporting key European health initiatives to address market gaps.

[Learn more](#)



Digital Innovation (28 Digital):

Accelerating market uptake of deep tech in Digital Tech, Cities, Industry, Wellbeing, and Finance to address Europe's societal challenges. [Learn more](#)



Metals, Minerals & Industrial Side Streams (EIT RawMaterials):

Innovating mineral exploration, digital monitoring, smart or targeting, safer and sustainable mining, efficient materials processing, and reducing emissions and resource use. Advancing recycling, secondary raw materials, waste valorization, circular economy business models, and traceability across raw material value chains.

[Learn more](#)

The application must be within the scope of the main challenges:



Food & Agritech (EIT Food):

Boosting sustainability and efficiency across the food chain, developing personalized nutrition, ensuring traceability, and building consumer trust through digital and sensor technologies.

Goals: Healthier lives, net-zero food systems, and resilient, transparent food supply chains. [Learn more](#)



Smart Cities & Mobility (EIT Urban Mobility):

Focusing on active mobility, sustainable logistics, future mobility solutions, clean transport energy, and smart infrastructure such as autonomous and demand-responsive transport. Open to all urban mobility innovations.

[Learn more](#)



Energy & Renewables (InnoEnergy):

Reducing costs and emissions, improving system performance, promoting circular economy solutions, and innovating in green hydrogen, solar, storage, and sustainable industrial energy use.

[Learn more](#)

PARTNERS:



Have any questions?

EIT RIB in Malta



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EIT RIB in Europe



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PARTNERS:

