

Regulations

Category 2

Projects 2025 - Inspiring Artisanry and Innovation through Collaboration

This category supports national collaborations between artisans, creative people, digital and technology firms, local councils, educational and research institutions looking to develop design-driven and innovative artisan projects that will have a positive impact on the sector.

The aim of this prize is to encourage collaboration, competitiveness, integrate creativity, design and technology in artisanal products and foster new, innovative or high-value added products or ideas developed in collaboration between designers, manufacturers or technology companies.

1. Definitions

- 1.1 **Applicant:** the person submitting the application whether as an individual, representing a group or an organisation and is responsible from the administration of the project – the lead partner.
- 1.2 **Participants:** the group of people / partners whether as individuals, representing a group or an organisation working on the project.
- 1.3 **Project:** the artisan project being presented for the competition.
- 1.4 **Organising Committee:** the committee responsible for the structuring of the competition, receiving and vetting applications as well as organising the exhibition and the Awards Giving Ceremony.
- 1.5 **Selection Committee:** a committee composed of representatives of various Government entities as well as representatives from Crafts and Arts Organisations. The Committee is responsible for the evaluation and assessment of the products submitted for the competition.
- 1.6 **Organisation:** a public-private partnership as well as public and private organisations.

2. Who can Participate

- 2.1 All individuals including artisans, students, apprentices and hobbyists **registered with the Registrar of Crafts**, designers - 16 years or older at the submission of entries whether as individuals or representing a group or an organisation, who are residents of the Maltese Islands willing to enter into a partnership to develop an innovative project. All the participants who will work on the project submitted must be indicated in the relevant section of the application form.
- 2.2 **Artisans, students, apprentices and hobbyists not registered with the Registrar of Crafts may submit an application. However, should the project be selected, registration would be required prior to signing of the Grant agreement.**
- 2.3 Digital and technology firms which have been legally established for at least 6 months prior to submission of application.
- 2.4 Local councils and research / educational institutions.
- 2.5 The Applicant must be the person/organisation coordinating the project and the lead partner.

3. Who cannot Participate

- 3.1 Employees of the Malta Crafts Foundation and their family members* are not eligible to participate.
- 3.2 Members of the Selection Committee and their family members* are not eligible to participate.
- 3.3 Individuals and entities who received public or European funds for the creation of their project or part, of are not eligible to participate.
- 3.4 Those public entities that were specifically set-up to teach crafts and/or to engage in crafts in various forms and ways are not eligible to participate in this competition as lead partners.

3.5 Previously awarded projects where either the project idea and/or the partnership configuration are the same as the one already awarded.

****For the purpose of this competition, family members means parents, siblings, spouses (including partners in a civil union) and offspring.***

4. The Project

- 4.1 The Project must be produced in its entirety in the Maltese Islands and must be completed before May 2026.
- 4.2 The standard projects' duration is set at 9 months. An extraordinary 1 month extension may be requested by the Applicant and is subject to the Organising Committee's assessment by considering the complexity of the project.
- 4.3 If the project is the creation of a physical product, it should be one-of-a kind, original piece, handmade or mostly handmade. Dangerous, prohibited or alive materials are excluded.
- 4.4 The project in its entirety or any part should not have won any prizes previously.
- 4.5 Participants cannot be involved in more than one application. Awarded projects can participate in future calls only if both the project idea and the partnership configuration are completely different from the one already awarded.
- 4.6 The Project must be the creation of the participants.
- 4.7 The Project must be owned by the Participants, at all times, since its creation until the end of the project.
- 4.8 Projects without a clear advance or innovation will be rejected.
- 4.9 If an applicant submits the project to another competition and wins a prize, or receives funding from another entity — if the project ceases to be in the possession of the participants or — if, for any reason whatsoever, ownership of the project is transferred to a third party, or — if one of the participants drops out, the applicant must urgently notify the Malta Crafts Foundation of such occurrence by email so that the project may be removed from the competition. If the Project has been awarded funds, allocation of funds will immediately cease. Once a Project proposal has been submitted to the competition, it may not be altered in any sense.
- 4.10 Project activities that have already been funded or are being funded by other funding instruments will be rejected. Double funding is not allowed.
- 4.11 Projects which are not awarded can apply for funds the following year if they still satisfy the conditions laid down in the Terms and Conditions.

5. Application Stage and Validation

- 5.1 Applications close on Friday the 28th February 2025. Late applications will not be accepted.
- 5.2 All prospective applicants are required to attend a workshop on Saturday, Feb 1st at 1pm. Attendance to this meeting is ***compulsory***.
- 5.3 Receipt of application will be given but this is not proof of validation.
- 5.4 Each application should be made up of at least 2 participants including an artisan working in one of the 'List of arts, skills, trades and industries' in the annex and a designer or digital and/or technology firm.

- 5.5 After the closing date, the Organising Committee will review all applications. In case of an incomplete application, the Applicant will be asked to rectify the application form within a specified period of time. If the Applicant does not provide the requested information, the application will be declared as not eligible to participate.
- 5.6 In the case where a large number of applications are received, the Organising Committee reserves the right to ask the Selection Committee to short-list the number of applications before the final evaluation and assessment of the projects submitted for the competition.
- 5.7 With each application, the Applicant is requested to enclose **a project dossier with sketches, ideas or moodboards, a timeline with milestones, a partnership agreement between the different participants, and a portfolio of works of the different participants.**
- 5.8 A brief conceptual statement about the project should be provided with the application together with any market research carried out.
- 5.9 The maximum submission size of the full application (including photos etc) should be 10MB. If bigger in size, the application should be sent by WeTransfer (or similar).

6. Exhibition

- 6.1 The submitted project ideas will be part of an exhibition Premju Ġieħ I-Artiġjanat Malti 2024 on view in any location that the Malta Crafts Foundation may deem appropriate.
- 6.2 The Malta Crafts Foundation shall decide on the final setup of the Exhibition and presentation of the submitted project ideas.
- 6.3 Completed projects will be presented on social media and applicants may be asked to carry out a presentation of the project.
- 6.4 The Malta Crafts Foundation retains the right to include any completed products as part of the exhibits showcased during the following year's DesignMT. This event is envisaged to take place in September/October.

7. Complaints and Reports

- 7.1 During the Period of the exhibition, Applicants and the general public can make objections and/or signal any irregularities in participating projects which might be breaching any of the competition regulations.
- 7.2 This can be done on a specific form which will be made available by the Malta Crafts Foundation.
- 7.3 Persons reporting possible irregularities will be asked to substantiate their claims and quote which of the regulations are being breached.
- 7.4 Officers within the Malta Crafts Foundation will view these reports and make recommendations to the Organising Committee and/or the Selection Committee as required.
- 7.5 Complaints or reports received after the stipulated time will not be considered.

8. Evaluating Criteria

Each Project will be assessed on the following criteria. Projects will be placed in an order of merit and prizes are awarded accordingly, until funding has been exhausted. The pass mark is set at 50%.

Effective collaboration - 20% of the total mark, allocated as follows

- Partners have the necessary experience and competence as well as the necessary capacity to successfully implement the project (10%)
- Portfolio, credentials and track record of the participants (5%)
- Good potential for growth (5%)

Realistic timeframe and milestones - 10% of the total mark

Feasibility of project - 10% of the total mark

Innovation - 25% of the total mark, allocated as follows:

- Novelty (5%)
- Reinterpreting tradition (5%)
- Innovative use of materials (5%)
- Market impact (10%)

Artistic vision - 5% of the total mark:

- Imagination and originality (5%)

Efficient use of resources – 5% of the total mark

Technical proficiency - 15% of the total mark, allocated as follows

- Technology and/or technique maturity (5%)
- Use of digital tools (5%)
- Use of sustainable materials and processes (5%)

Positive impact to the sector - 10% of the total mark

9. Award and Prize

9.1 There is a pot-prize of €41,500 which can be awarded to a minimum of five projects or a series of projects.

9.2 There is a capping of 75% of project costs up to a maximum of 8300 Euro per project.

9.3 Projects awarded a prize fund will be announced during an awards-giving ceremony held in June/July 2025.

9.4 The Selection Committee reserves the right not to award a prize/s if the quality of the applications is not deemed to meet the relevant qualitative criteria.

- 9.5 The decisions taken by the Selection Committee will be considered as final. No appeal shall be admitted in any case. The Selection Committee's deliberations shall remain confidential.
- 9.6 The Malta Crafts Foundation reserves the right to disqualify applicants and/or revoke prizes and/or take any other action it deems necessary, if the Applicant is found to have made a false declaration or did not adhere to one or more of the above regulations. The selection committee may then reconvene in order to re-evaluate applications as applicable with the possibility of re-assigning the award.
- 9.7 The Malta Crafts Foundation will notify the Applicants in advance the date of the event in which the awarded projects are made public. All Applicants agree to be present in this event and must be able to fulfil press requests if any.
- 9.8 In case where an Applicant is unable to attend the awards ceremony, the said Applicant should inform the Malta Crafts Foundation accordingly and nominate a representative to attend the ceremony. Details of the representative being so nominated, who may also receive a prize on behalf of the applicant, should include name, designation and ID card number.
- 9.9 The awarded projects will be made beneficiaries and expected to abide by the Grant Agreement (a draft of which is being provided with the guidelines) which will govern the grant allocation. This agreement will include the administrative tasks for the beneficiaries including activity reporting obligations, milestones, bank details and payment schedule.
- 9.10 Funds will be disbursed to the Applicant that is nominated as the Project Leader.
- 9.11 Awarded projects will need to submit periodic reports (progress and problems encountered with technical sketches/specs/drawings), final report (incl. final product and related documentation). Costs reporting is required in the final report. Failure to submit such reports may result in project cancellation.
- 9.12 Awarded projects will be followed up by the Foundation to make sure that the project makes the most out of the funds allocated.
- 9.13 Awarded projects will be obliged to promote their creation, and to mention the Awards and the funding obtained, and tag the Malta Crafts Foundation as drawn out in the publicity section of the Grant Agreement.

10. Legal Considerations

By submitting a Project to this competition, the participants fully and unconditionally accept these rules. Violations of these rules may be grounds for disqualifying the Applicant, in which case his or her Project will be withdrawn from the competition.

The Malta Crafts Foundation reserves the right to withdraw, suspend, extend or modify the Prize and these Rules of Entry, at any time, without any prior notice in case of any unforeseen circumstances outside its reasonable control or in case of force majeure that may hinder the scheduled procedure of this Prize. No judicial, extra-judicial or any other claim may be brought by the participants against The Malta Crafts Foundation. Any changes in the Rules of Entry will be published on the Facebook page of the Foundation and/or website. The participant holds the right to withdraw from participating in case he/she does not agree with the changes made.

List of arts, skills, trades and industries considered as Maltese crafts as per S.L 421.02

1. *The production of bakers' and confectioners' products (such as bread, biskuttini, ring-cakes, nougat, cream buns etc.)*
2. *Production of honey*
3. *Production of agricultural products (such as Cheeselets – gbejniet, desiccated products like figs, tomatoes etc, preserved and salted products*
4. *Wine and alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks*
5. *Production of musical instruments*
6. *Production of tobacco pipes*
7. *Clock/watch making and repairing*
8. *Salt production*
9. *Lime production*
10. *Production of carts, sulkies and such like vehicles*
11. *Metal works (such as iron, tin, copper, bronze etc)*
12. *Precious metal works (such as gold, silver etc)*
13. *Textile works (such as lace - bizzilla, weaving, embroidery crochet, macramé, tatting)*
14. *Pottery, ceramics or porcelain works or of other material of a similar kind*
15. *Plastic, fiberglass works or other material of a similar kind*
16. *Wax works*
17. *Cane works*
18. *Stone works*
19. *Wood works (such as furniture, etc)*
20. *Cobbler works*
21. *Leather works*
22. *Glass works*
23. *Restoration works*
24. *Printing works (such as books, magazines etc) and related work like binding*
25. *Hattery works*
26. *Papier machè works*
27. *Production of trophies, medals and badges*
28. *Production of statues and figurines*
29. *Haircutter, hairstylist, or beauty salons and activities of like kind*
30. *Upholstery works*
31. *Horse shoeing*
32. *Flag-making and production of coats-of-arms*
33. *Painting, sign painting or 'tberfil' works and other similar works*
34. *Manufacturing of tiles*
35. *Sewing*
36. *Ganutell*
37. *Inlay Works*
38. *Gilding*
39. *Stone or wood carving*
40. *Boat building*
41. *Flower arrangement*

42. *Modeling in Maltese clay, wood, tin or other material*
43. *Poker-work (pyrography)*
44. *Tattooing*
45. *Engraving*
46. *Frame making*