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**MINISTERU GĦALL-ENERĠIJA L-INTRAPRIŻA
U L-IŻVILUPP SOSTENIBBLI**

**THE MINISTRY FOR ENERGY, ENTERPRISE
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Skema ta' Appoġġ għal Proġetti ta' Riċerka
u Innovazzjoni fl-oqsma tal-Enerġija u l-Ilma**

**Support Scheme for Research and Innovation
Projects in the Fields of Energy and Water**

SABIEX tiġi implimentata l-Istrateġija Nazzjonali għar-Riċerka u l-Innovazzjoni fl-Enerġija u l-Ilma (2021-2030), li giet immedija uffiċjalment fis-17 ta' Ġunju 2020, l-Aġenzija għall-Enerġija u l-Ilma fi ħdan il-Ministeru għall-Enerġija l-Intrapriża u l-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli din l-Iskema li bis-saħħa tagħha se tingħata għajnnuna għal proġetti ta' riċerka u innovazzjoni (R&I) fl-oqsma tal-enerġija u tal-ilma, skond dak li qed tiffoka fuqu is-Sejha għall-Proposti tal-2021.

IN ORDER to implement the National Strategy for Research and Innovation in Energy and Water (2021-2030), officially launched on 17th June, 2020, the Energy and Water Agency within the Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development has developed this Scheme by virtue of which financial assistance will be provided for research and innovation (R&I) projects in the field of energy and water, in line with the focus of the 2021 Call for Proposals priority areas.

Applikazzjonijiet għal din l-iskema jintlaqgħu mil-15 ta' Marzu sat-30 ta' Ġunju, 2021. Applikazzjonijiet imdaħħla wara din id-data ma jiġux ikkunsidrati.

Applications to this scheme will be received between 15th March and 30th June, 2021. Late submissions will not be considered.

SKEMA

SCHEME

1. Interpretazzjoni

1. Interpretation

“Applikant” tfisser kull persuna eliġibbli għal parteċipazzjoni fi Proġett skont dawn ir-Regoli għall-Parteċipazzjoni u li tapplika għal finanzjament taht din l-iskema ta' appoġġ. Dan jista' jirreferi għal entità individwali jew għal konsorzju.

“Applicant” means anyone eligible for participation in a Project in terms of these Rules for Participation and who consequently applies for funding under this support scheme. This may refer to an individual entity or a consortium.

“Applikant li ma Rnexxiex” tfisser Applikant li l-applikazzjoni tiegħu naqset milli tgħaddi minn stadju tal-proċess tal-applikazzjoni, u li għalekk il-Proġett tiegħu mhux eliġibbli biex jirċievi appoġġ taht din l-Iskema.

“Unsuccessful Applicant” means an Applicant whose application failed to pass one stage of the application process and whose Project is thus not eligible to receive support under this Scheme.

“Applikant li Rnexxa” tfisser Applikant li l-applikazzjoni tiegħu għaddiet miż-żewġ stadji tal-proċess ta' applikazzjoni u b'hekk il-Proġett tiegħu jista' jirċievi appoġġ taht din l-Iskema. Jekk issirx offerta ta' appoġġ jiddependi fuq il-klassifikazzjoni li jikseb l-Aplikant li rnexxa u d-disponibbiltà ta' fondi taht din l-Iskema.

“Successful Applicant” means an Applicant whose application has passed both stages of the application process and thus whose Project may receive support under this Scheme. An offer of support shall be contingent on the Successful Applicant's ranking and the availability of funds under this Scheme.

“Awtorità Responsabbli” tirreferi għall-Aġenzija dwar l-Enerġija u l-Ilma, iżda xi kompiti li skont il-Grant Agreement huma obbligi tal-Awtorità Responsabbli jistgħu jiġu mgħoddija lil partijiet terzi li jirrappreżentaw lill-Awtorità Responsabbli hekk kif ikkuntrattati, mahtura jew delegati mill-Aġenzija dwar l-Enerġija u l-Ilma.

“Managing Authority” shall be the Energy and Water Agency, provided that some tasks which fall to the Managing Authority under the Grant Agreement may be conducted by third parties representing the Managing Authority, as contracted, appointed or delegated by the Energy and Water Agency.

“Benefiċjarju tal-Proġett” (il-Benefiċjarju) tfisser Applikant li Rnexxa, li aċċetta l-offerta ta' appoġġ għal Proġett taht is-Sejha għall-Proposti tal-2021 u ffirmat l-Grant Agreement. Dan jista' jkun entità individwali jew Konsorzju.

“Project Beneficiary” (the Beneficiary) means a successful Applicant who accepted the offer of support for a Project under the 2021 Call for Proposals and has signed the Grant Agreement. This may constitute an individual entity or a Consortium.

“Grant Agreement” tfisser il-ftehim bejn l-Awtorità Responsabbli u l-Benefiċjarju tal-Proġett li jistabbilixxi t-termini, kundizzjonijiet u limitazzjonijiet applikabbli għal Għotja.

“Imsieheb ewlieni” tfisser dak l-Imsieheb tal-Konsorzju identifikat bħala l-imsieheb responsabbli biex jiżgura l-eżekuzzjoni korretta ta' proġett li jingħata appoġġ taħt din is-Sejha għall-Proposti tal-2021 li se jkollu responsabbiltajiet *in solidum* flimkien ma' l-imsieħba l-oħra tal-Proġett għall-obbligi kollha li joħorġu mill-Grant Agreement.

“Intensità tal-ghajjnuna” tfisser l-ammont tal-ghajjnuna gross espress bħala perċentwal tal-ispejjeż eliġibbli, qabel kull tnaqqis ta' taxxa jew imposti oħra. L-ghajjnuna pagabbli f'għadd ta' pagamenti għandha tiġi skontata għall-valur tagħha fil-mument li tingħata l-ghotja. Ir-rata tal-interessi li għandha tintuża għal finijiet ta' skont tkun ir-rata ta' skont applikabbli fil-mument li tingħata l-ghotja. L-intensità tal-ghajjnuna tiġi kkalkulata għal kull benefiċjarju.

“Kollaborazzjoni effettiva” tfisser kollaborazzjoni bejn mill-inqas żewġ partijiet indipendenti għall-iskambju ta' għarfien jew teknoloġija, jew biex jintlaħaq għan komuni bbażat fuq id-diviżjoni tax-xogħol fejn il-partijiet konguntament jiddefinixxu l-kamp ta' applikazzjoni tal-proġett kollaborattiv, jikkontribwixxu għall-implimentazzjoni tiegħu u jaqsmu r-riskji, kif ukoll ir-riżultati tiegħu. Riċerka li ssir taħt kuntratt u il-proviżjoni ta' servizzi ta' riċerka mhumiex meqjusa forum ta' kollaborazzjoni.

“Konsorzju” tfisser grupp ta' żewġ entitajiet jew aktar li flimkien jipproponu proġett u jissottomettu applikazzjoni għall-finanzjament. Konsorzju għandu jkun magħmul mill-Imsieheb magħżulmill-imsieħba bħala l-Imsieheb Ewlieni, u mill-inqas Imsieheb wieħed ieħor.

“Kundizzjonijiet ta' distakkament” tfisser li l-kundizzjonijiet tat-tranzazzjoni bejn il-partijiet kontraenti ma jvarjawx minn dawk li jiġu stipulati bejn intrapriži indipendenti, u ma jkunx fihom element ta' kollużjoni. Kull tranzazzjoni li tirriżulta minn proċedura miftuħa, trasparenti u mhux diskriminatorja hija kkunsidrata li tilhaq il-prinċipju ta' distakkament.

“Organizzazzjoni ta' riċerka u tixrid tal-għarfien” tfisser entità (bħal universitajiet jew istituti ta' riċerka, aġenziji tat-trasferiment tat-teknoloġija, intermedjarji ta' innovazzjoni, entitajiet kollaborattivi fiżiċi u/jew virtwali orjentati lejn ir-riċerka), ikun xi jkun l-istat legali tagħha (organizzata skont il-liġi pubblika jew privata) jew il-mod ta' finanzjament, li l-iskop ewlieni tagħha jkun li twettaq riċerka fundamentali, riċerka industrijali jew żvilupp sperimentali jew li xxerred b'mod wiesa' r-riżultati ta' attivitajiet bħal dawn permezz tat-tagħlim, il-pubblikazzjoni jew it-trasferiment tal-għarfien. Meta din l-entità tiżvolgi wkoll attivitajiet ekonomiċi, il-

“Grant agreement” means an agreement between the Managing Authority and the Project Beneficiary that sets forth the terms, conditions and limitations applicable to a Grant.

“Lead partner” means the Consortium Partner identified as being the partner responsible to ensure the correct execution of project awarded support under this 2021 Call for Proposals who will have joint and several liabilities together with other Project Partners for all the obligations arising from the Grant Agreement.

“Aid intensity” gross aid amount expressed as a percentage of the eligible costs, before any deduction of tax or other charge. Aid payable in several instalments will be discounted to its value at the date of award. The interest rate to be used for this purpose is the discount rate applicable at the date of award. The aid intensity is calculated per beneficiary.

“Effective collaboration” means collaboration between at least two independent parties to exchange knowledge or technology, or to achieve a common objective based on the division of labour where the parties jointly define the scope of the collaborative project, contribute to its implementation and share its risks, as well as its results. Contract research and provision of research services are not considered forms of collaboration.

“Consortium” means a group of two or more entities who jointly propose a project and submit an application for funding. A Consortium is made up of a designated Lead Partner and at least one Project Partner.

“Arm's length conditions” means conditions of the transaction between the contracting parties contain no element of collusion and do not differ from those which would be stipulated between independent enterprises. Any transaction that results from an open, transparent and non-discriminatory procedure is considered as meeting the arm's length principle.

“Research and knowledge-dissemination organisation” means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities, the financing, the costs and the

finanzjament, l-ispejjeż u d-dhul ta' dawn l-attivitajiet ekonomiċi jridu jitqiesu b'mod separat. L-intraprizi li jistgħu jeżerċitaw influwenza fuq entità bħal din, pereżempju fil-kapaċità tagħhom bħala azzjonisti jew membri, jaf ma jgawdu l-ebda aċċess preferenzjali għar-riżultati ġġenerati minnha.

“Perjodu tal-proġett” tfisser il-perjodu ta' eżekuzzjoni tal-proġett, li huwa definit bħala il-perjodu bejn id-data tal-bidu tal-proġett u d-data tat-tmiem tal-proġett, hekk kif stipulat fil-*Grant Agreement*.

“Proġett” tfisser dawk l-attivitajiet maħsuba biex jitwettaq komputu indiviżibbli ta' natura ekonomika, xjentifika jew teknika preċiża b'għanijiet li jkunu definiti b'mod ċar minn qabel hekk kif deskritti fl-Applikazzjoni. Meta żewġ proġetti jew aktar ma jistgħux jiġu mifruda b'mod ċar minn xulxin u b'mod partikolari meta mil-lat teknoloġiku m'għandhomx probabbiltajiet indipendenti ta' suċċess, dawn jiġu kkunsidrati bħala proġett wiehed.

“Regoli għall-Parteċipazzjoni” tfisser ir-Regoli għall-Parteċipazzjoni marbuta ma' din is-Sejha għall-Proposti għall-Proġetti ta' R&I tal-2021 fl-oqsma tal-Enerġija u tal-Ilma (Verżjoni Marzu 2021), kif ippubblikati fuq is-sit elettroniku tal-Awtorità Responsabbli, li għandhom ikunu r-regoli applikabbli għal din is-Sejha u li flimkien mal-provvedimenti tal-*Grant Agreement*, għandhom jirregolaw ir-relazzjoni bejn Awtorità Responsabbli u l-Benefiċjarji. L-Applikanti taht din is-Sejha ser ikunu meħtieġa jiffirmaw dikjarazzjoni li jaqblu li jkunu marbutin b'dawn ir-regoli bħala parti mill-proċess tal-applikazzjoni. Kopja tista' tintalab billi tintbagħat email lil (rni-energywateragency@gov.mt). B'mod alternattiv, id-dokument ser ikun disponibbli fuq is-sit tal-Awtorità Responsabbli fuq: (<https://www.energywateragency.gov.mt/schemes/>).

“Riċerka bażika orjentata” tfisser xogħol imwettaq bl-aspettattiva li se jipproduċi bażi wiesgħa ta' għarfien li huwa probabbli li jista' jiffirma l-pedament ta' soluzzjonijiet għal problemi kemm jekk dawn huma diġà rikonoxxuti jew jekk huma mistennija li jeżistu kemm bħalissa jew fil-futur.

“Riċerka fundamentali” tfisser xogħol sperimentali jew teoriku mwettaq primarjament biex jinkiseb għarfien ġdid tal-pedamenti bażiċi ta' fenomeni u fatti osservabbli, mingħajr ebda applikazzjoni jew użu kummerċjali dirett previst.

“Riċerka industrijali” tfisser ir-riċerka pplanata jew l-investigazzjoni kritika mmirata lejn il-kisba ta' għarfien u hilitet godda għall-iżvilupp ta' prodotti, proċessi jew servizzi godda jew biex iseħħ titjib sinifikanti fi prodotti, proċessi jew servizzi eżistenti. Tinkludi l-holqien ta' partijiet ta' komponenti ta' sistemi kumplessi, u tista' tinkludi l-kostruzzjoni ta' prototipi f'ambjent ta' laboratorju jew f'ambjent b'interfaċċi simulati għal sistemi eżistenti

revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, for example in the quality of shareholders or members, may not enjoy a preferential access to the results generated by it.

“Project period” means the execution period of the project, which shall be the period between the Project Start Date and Project End Date as indicated in the Grant Agreement.

“Project” means those activities intended to accomplish an indivisible task of a precise economic, scientific or technical nature with clearly pre-defined goals as described in the application. When two or more projects are not clearly separable from each other and in particular when they do not have independent probabilities of technological success, they are considered as a single project.

“Rules for Participation” mean the Rules for Participation applicable to this 2021 Call for Proposals for Research and Innovation Projects in the fields of Energy and Water (Version March 2021), as published on the Managing Authority's website, which shall be the applicable rules governing the call and, which, together with the provisions of a Grant Agreement, shall regulate the relationship between the Managing Authority and Beneficiaries. Applicants under this call shall be required to sign a declaration agreeing to be bound by these rules as part of the application process. A copy may be requested by sending an email to (rni-energywateragency@gov.mt). Alternatively, the document shall be available on the website of the Managing Authority at: (<https://www.energywateragency.gov.mt/schemes/>).

“Oriented-basic research” means the work carried out with the expectation that it will produce a broad base of knowledge likely to form the basis of the solution to recognised or expected current or future problems or possibilities.

“Fundamental research” means experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial application or use in view.

“Industrial research” means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. It comprises the creation of components parts of complex systems, and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems

kif ukoll ta' linji pilota, meta jkun mehtieg ghar-ricerka industrijali u notevolment għall-validazzjoni tat-teknoloġija generika.

“Spejjeż Eligibbli” tfisser dawk l-ispejjeż magħmula direttament mill-Benefiċjarju tal-Proġett matul il- Perjodu tal-proġett u li huma qabel kollox użati sabiex jintlaħqu l-għanijiet tal-Proġett, sakemm dawn ikunu eligibbli skont ir-regoli għall-eligibbiltà tal-ispejjeż li jinsabu fl-Annes I għar-Regoli għall-Parteċipazzjoni. Kull spiża eligibbli għandha tkun raġevolment neċessarja għall-implimentazzjoni tal-Proġett, għandha tkun identifikata b'mod speċifiku fil-Proġett, u dawn l-ispejjeż għandhom jistgħu jiġu b'mod faċli u bi grad għoli ta' preċiżjoni marbuta ma' attivitajiet tal-Proġett;

“Spejjeż tal-persunal” tfisser l-ispejjeż marbutin mar-riċerkaturi, t-teknici u persunal ieħor ta' appoġġ sakemm ikunu impjegati fuq il-proġett jew l-attività rilevanti.

“Strateġija Nazzjonali għar-Ricerka u l-Innovazzjoni fl-Enerġija u l-Ilma (2021-2030)” tfisser l-istrateġija nazzjonali ppubblikata mill-Aġenzija dwar l-Enerġija u l-Ilma li tiddekrivi l-pjan tal-Gvern li jagħti spinta u jiggwida d-direzzjoni tar-R&I domestika fl-oqsma tal-enerġija u l-ilma għall-għaxar snin li ġejjin.

“Valur tal-Għotja” tfisser il-valur totali tal-għotja għall-finanzjament tal-Proġett mill-Awtorità Responsabbli.

“Żvilupp sperimentali” tfisser l-akkwist, il-kombinament, l-iffurmar u l-użu tal-għarfien u l-ħiliet eżistenti ta' natura xjentifika, teknoloġika, kummerċjali u ta' tip ieħor, bl-iskop li jiġu żviluppati prodotti, proċeduri jew servizzi ġodda jew imtejba. Dan jista' jinkludi wkoll, per eżempju, attivitajiet immirati lejn id-definizzjoni kuncettwali, l-ippjanar u d-dokumentazzjoni ta' prodotti, proċeduri jew servizzi ġodda. L-iżvilupp sperimentali jista' jinkludi l-prototipi, il-wiri, il-pilotaġġ, l-ittestjar u l-validazzjoni ta' prodotti ġodda jew imtejba, il-proċessi jew is-servizzi f'ambjenti rappreżentattivi tal-kundizzjonijiet operattivi reali tal-ħajja meta l-għan ewlieni huwa li jkun hemm titjib tekniku ġdid għall-prodotti, il-proċessi jew s-servizzi li mhumiex sostanzjalment stabbiliti. Dan jista' jinkludi l-iżvilupp ta' prototip jew pilota li jkun kummerċjalment utilizzabbli u li huwa neċessarjament il-prodott kummerċjali finali u li huwa għali wisq biex jiġi prodott biex jintuża biss għal finijiet ta' dimostrazzjoni u validazzjoni. L-iżvilupp sperimentali ma jinkludix tibdiliet ta' rutina jew perjodiċi magħmula lill-prodotti eżistenti, il-linji ta' produzzjoni, il-proċessi ta' manifattura, is-servizzi u operazzjonijiet oħra li jkun għaddejnin, anke jekk dawn it-tibdiliet jistgħu jirrapreżentaw titjib.

2. Informazzjoni ġenerali dwar l-Iskema

2.1 Is-sett sħiħ ta' regoli, regolamenti u kundizzjonijiet applikabbli għall-Iskema stabbilita b'dan l-Avviz tal-Gvern

as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation.

“Eligible costs” means those costs incurred directly by the Beneficiary during the Project Period and used primarily for the purposes of achieving the objects of the Project, subject to their eligibility in line with the rules for eligibility of costs found in Annex I to these Rules for Participation. All eligible costs shall be reasonably necessary for the implementation of the Project, identified specifically within the Project, and shall be costs which can be assigned to Project activities easily and with a high degree of accuracy.

“Personnel costs” means the costs of researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the relevant project or activity.

“National Strategy for Research and Innovation in Energy and Water (2021-2030)” means the national strategy published by the Energy and Water Agency which outlines the Government's plan to boost and guide the direction of domestic R&I in the fields of energy and water over the upcoming decade.

“Grant Value” means the total value of the grant funding provided for the Project by the Managing Authority.

“Experimental development” means acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services. This may also include, for example, activities aiming at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services. Experimental development may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real-life operating conditions where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set. This may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessarily the final commercial product and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes. Experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements.

2. Overview of the Scheme

2.1 The full set of rules, regulations and conditions applicable to the Scheme established by this Government

jinstabu fir-Regoli għall-Parteċipazzjoni, liema dokument għandu jkun applikabbli fl-intier tiegħu għal din l-Iskema. Huwa mistenni li applikanti potenzjali jkunu qraw u ffamiljarizzaw ruħhom ma' dan id-dokument qabel ma jissottomettu applikazzjoni.

2.2 Is-Sejha għall-Proposti għall-2021 tilqa' applikazzjonijiet għal appoġġ finanzjarju, liema appoġġ jieħu il-forma ta' għotja, għal proġetti ta' R&I fl-enerġija u fl-ilma li l-objettivi tagħhom huma konformi mal-politiki nazzjonali u li jfittxu li jikkontribwixxu b' mod tangibbli sabiex jiġu indirizzati wahda minn dawn li ġejjin:

a) Prijorità fil-politika nazzjonali jew sfida fis-setturi tal-enerġija u tal-ilma; jew

b) Kompetittività ekonomika u tkabbir f'varjetà ta' setturi nazzjonali, mill-perspettiva tal-enerġija u tal-ilma.

2.3 L-enfasi hija fuq proġetti ta' riċerka orjentata bażika u riċerka applikata għall-istadju ta' disinn sperimentali, jiġifieri proġetti f'livell ta' Thejjiha Teknoloġika 2-6, b'tul li jvarja bejn tmintax u erbgha u għoxrin (18-24) xahar.

2.4 Seba' suġġetti ġenerali ġew identifikati bħala oqsma ta' prijorità għall-appoġġ; dawn huma deskritti fl-Istrateġija Nazzjonali għar-Riċerka u l-Innovazzjoni fl-Enerġija u l-Ilma (2021-2030). Dawn huma kif jidhru hawn:

- a) soluzzjonijiet rinnovabbli għall-gzejjer
- b) integrazzjoni tal-elettriku minn sorsi ta' enerġija rinovabbli
- c) soluzzjonijiet ta' effiċjenza fl-enerġija
- d) effiċjenza fl-użu tal-ilma
- e) proċessi ta' desalinizzazzjoni u trattament tal-ilma
- f) trattament u reklamazzjoni tal-ilma mormi
- g) ċentri urbani li jikkonservaw l-ilma

Preferenza sabiex jingħata appoġġ finanzjarju tingħata lill-proposti bl-oġhla punteġġi li jaqfha f'dawn l-oqsma ta' prijorità; l-oqsma ta' prijorità m'għandhomx ordni ta' preferenza bejniethom. Proġetti jistgħu jaqgħu f'firxa ta' dixxiplini, inkluż l-inġinerija u x-xjenzi naturali, xjenzi soċjali u ta' mġieba, *big data* u intelliġenza artifiċjali.

3. Eliġibbiltà

3.1 Applikant jista' jkun entità individwali jew Konsorzju. Meta ssir l-applikazzjoni, l-Aplikant għandu jkollu kapaċità suffiċjenti ta' riżorsi umani kwalifikati adattati (apparti minn dawk li jiġu reklutati għall-proġett), għarfien teknoloġiku xieraq u pożizzjoni finanzjarja tajba biżżejjed sabiex iwettaq proġett ta' R&I. Fil-ħin tal-ħlas tal-għajjnuna, l-Aplikant (fil-każ ta' Konsorzju, l-Imsieheb Ewlieni) huwa meħtieġ li jkollu stabbiliment jew fergħa f'Malta.

Notice are laid down in the Rules for Participation, which document shall be applicable to this Scheme in its entirety. Potential Applicants are expected to read through and familiarise themselves with the document in question prior to submitting an application.

2.2 The 2021 Call for Proposals invites applications for financial support, in the form of a grant, for R&I projects in energy and water whose objectives are in line with national policies and seek to contribute in a tangible manner to addressing one of the following:

a) A national policy priority or challenge in the energy and water sectors; or

b) Economic competitiveness and growth in a variety of national sectors, from an energy and water perspective.

2.3 The focus is on projects at oriented-basic research and applied research to experimental design stage, that is projects at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 2-6, with a duration ranging between eighteen and twenty-four (18-24) months.

2.4 Seven overarching topics have been identified as priority areas for support; these are described in the National Strategy for Research and Innovation in Energy and Water (2021-2030). These are as follows:

- a) renewable solutions for islands
- b) integration of RES electricity
- c) energy efficient solutions
- d) water use efficiency
- e) desalination and water treatment process
- f) wastewater treatment and reclamation
- g) water friendly urban centres

Preference for financial support will be given to the highest scoring proposals within these priority areas; there is no order of preference of the priority areas. Target projects may fall in a range of disciplines, from engineering and natural sciences to social and behavioural sciences, big data and artificial intelligence.

3. Eligibility

3.1 An Applicant may be constituted of an individual entity or a Consortium. At the time of application, the Applicant must have sufficient capacity with respect to suitable qualified human resources (in addition to those that shall be recruited for the project), appropriate technology acumen and financial standing to undertake a R&I project. At the time of payment of the assistance, the Applicant (in the case of a Consortium, the Lead Partner) is required to have an establishment or branch in Malta.

3.2 L-iskema hija miftuħa kemm għall-Applikanti li jaqgħu barra mill-ambitu tal-Għajnuna mill-Istat kif ukoll għal dawk li jaqgħu fl-ambitu tal-Għajnuna mill-Istat.

4. Appoġġ Finanzjarju

4.1 Il-finanzjament massimu possibbli li jista' jintalab għal Proġett R&I taht din l-Iskema huwa ta' €120,000 u l-finanzjament minimu possibbli mitlub m'għandux ikun inqas minn € 60,000. In-numru ta' Proġetti li se jingħataw finanzjament huwa suġġett għad-disponibbiltà ta' fondi, sa massimu ta' €700,000, fejn il-fondi jiġu allokati għal Proġetti skond l-ordni ta' klassifikazzjoni li jōhroġ mil-proċess ta' evalwazzjoni deskritt f'5.3-5.7.

4.2 L-intensità tal-għajnuna tiġi ddeterminata abbażi tal-entità (mhux abbażi tal-proġett). Entitajiet li ma jaqgħux fl-ambitu tal-Għajnuna mill-Istat għandhom jirċievu finanzjament ta' 100% għall-ispejjeż eliġibbli approvati, li jiġu magħmula waqt il-Perjodu tal-Proġett. L-intensità tal-għajnuna għal entitajiet li jaqgħu fl-ambitu tal-Għajnuna mill-Istat hija ddeterminata skond il-livell ta' attività ta' R&I li qed titwettaq u d-daqs tal-entità, skond it-tabella hawn taht.

Għajnuna għal proġetti ta' R&I taht is-Sejha għall-Proposti tal-2021	Intrapriża zghira	Intrapriża ta' daqs medju	Intrapriża kbira
Riċerka fundamentali	100%	100%	100%
Riċerka industrijali	70%	60%	50%
- soġġetti għal kollaborazzjoni effettiva bejn intrapriži li fosthom għall-inqas wieħed minnhom huwa SME, jew il-proġett huwa mwettaq għall-inqas f'zewġ Stati Membri, jew fi Stat Membru u f'Parti Kontraenti tal-Ftehim taż-ZEE, u l-ebda intrapriża unika ma tbat iktar minn 70 % tal-ispejjeż eliġibbli, jew bejn intrapriża u organizzazzjoni waħda jew iktar tar-riċerka u t-tixrid tal-għarfien, meta dawn tal-aħħar iġorru mill-inqas 1-10 % tal-ispejjeż eliġibbli u għandhom id-dritt li jippubblikaw ir-riżultati tar-riċerka tagħhom; jew - ir-riżultati tal-proġett jixxerrdu sew permezz ta' konferenzi, pubblikazzjoni, repożitorji b'aċċess miftuħ, jew permezz ta' softwer b'xejn jew ta' sors miftuħ	80%	75%	65%

3.2 The scheme is open to both Applicants who fall outside the scope of State aid and those who fall within the scope of State aid.

4. Financial Support

4.1 The maximum possible funding that can be requested for an R&I Project under this Scheme is € 120,000 and the minimum possible funding requested shall not be less than € 60,000. The number of Projects which will be awarded funding is subject to the availability of funds, up to a maximum of € 700,000, with funds allocated to Projects in order of ranking as per the evaluation process described in 5.3-5.7.

4.2 The aid intensity is determined on an entity basis (not a project basis). Entities falling outside the scope of State aid shall receive 100% funding for approved eligible costs incurred during the Project Period. The aid intensity for entities that fall within the scope of State aid is determined according to the level of R&I activity being undertaken and the size of the entity, as per the table below.

Aid for R&I projects under the 2021 Call for Proposals	Small enterprise	Medium-sized enterprise	Large enterprise
Fundamental research	100%	100%	100%
Industrial research	70%	60%	50%
- Subject to effective collaboration between undertakings among which at least one is an SME, or is carried out in at least two Member States, or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70 % of the eligible costs, or between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10 % of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results; or - Subject to wide dissemination of results through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software	80%	75%	65%

Żvilupp sperimentali	45%	35%	25%	Experimental development	45%	35%	25%
- Soġġetti għal kollaborazzjoni effettiva bejn intraprizi li fosthom għall-inqas wieħed minnhom huwa SME, jew il-proġett huwa mwettaq għall-inqas f'zewġ Stati Membri, jew fi Stat Membru u f'Parti Kontraenti tal-Ftehim taż-ZEE, u l-ebda intrapriża unika ma tbat iktar minn 70 % tal-ispejjeż eliġibbli, jew bejn intrapriża u organizzazzjoni waħda jew iktar tar-riċerka u t-tixrid tal-għarfien, meta dawn tal-aħħar iġorru mill-inqas 1-10 % tal-ispejjeż eliġibbli u għandhom id-dritt li jipubblikaw ir-riżultati tar-riċerka tagħhom; jew - ir-riżultati tal-proġett jixxerrdu sew permezz ta' konferenzi, publikazzjoni, repożitorji b'acċess miftuħ, jew permezz ta' softwer b'xejn jew ta' sors miftuħ	60%	50%	40%	- Subject to effective collaborative between undertakings among which at least one is an SME, or is carried out in at least two Member States, or in a Member State and in a Contracting Party of the EEA Agreement, and no single undertaking bears more than 70 % of the eligible costs, or between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the latter bear at least 10 % of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results; or - Subject to wide dissemination of results through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software	60%	50%	40%

4.3 Fil-każ ta' proġetti kollaborattivi, ir-rata massima ta' finanzjament għal proġett speċifiku tiddependi fuq in-numru u t-tip tal-partijiet li huma kollaboraturi, kif ukoll fuq il-kategoriji ta' attivitajiet ta' riċerka mwettaq u s-sehem ta' spejjeż eliġibbli mgarrba minn kull waħda minnhom.

4.4 Biex ikunu eliġibbli għall-finanzjament, l-ispejjeż kollha għandhom isiru matul it-terminu tal-Grant Agreement. L-ispejjeż eliġibbli huma kif ġej:

Spejjeż tal-persunal: l-ispejjeż marbutin mar-riċerkaturi, t-teknici u persunal ieħor ta' appoġġ sakemm ikunu impjegati fuq il-proġett, fejn issir distinzjoni bejn persunal eżistenti u kwalunkwe persunal ġdid impjegat speċifikament għall-Proġett. L-ispejjeż eliġibbli għall-persunal eżistenti m'għandhomx jaqbu 1-20% tal-Valur tal-Proġett. Hemm limiti stabbiliti għan-numru ta' persunal ġdid li jista' jiġi impjegat taht il-Proġett, b'linji gwida għar-rati ta' kull siegħa inkluzi.

Strumenti u tagħmir: xiri ta' tagħmir speċjalizzat, inkluz softwer u settijiet ta' dejta, meħtieġa biex jintlaħqu l-għanijiet tal-Proġett, sal-punt u għall-perjodu uzati fil-

4.3 In the case of collaborative projects, the maximum funding rate for a specific project will depend on the number and type of collaborating parties, as well as on the categories of research activities carried out and the share of eligible costs borne by each one of them.

4.4 To be eligible for funding, all costs must be incurred during the term of the Grant Agreement. Eligible costs are as follows:

Personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project, with a distinction made between existing personnel and any new personnel employed specifically for the Project. Eligible costs for existing personnel shall not exceed 20% of the Project Value. Limits are in place for the number of new personnel employed for the Project, with guidelines for hourly rates included.

Instruments and equipment: purchase of specialized equipment, including software and datasets, required for achieving the objectives of the Project, to the extent and for

proġett. Jekk dawn l-istrumenti u t-tagħmir ma jintużawx tul haġġithom kollha fil-Proġett, jitqiesu eliġibbli biss l-ispejjeż ta' deprezzament li jikkorrispondu għall-hajja tal-proġett. L-ispejjeż tad-deprezzament għandhom jiġu kkalkulati abbażi ta' prassi tajba tal-kontabbiltà u vverifikati minn Accountant Pubbliku Ċertifikat.

Informazzjoni xjentifika: aċċess għalsorsi ta' informazzjoni xjentifika inklużi *databases* u pubblikazzjonijiet, mixtrija jew liċenzjati minn sorsi esterni taħt kundizzjonijiet ta' distakkament.

Ogġetti ta' Konsum: l-ispejjeż tal-materjali, provvisti u prodotti simili li jkunu saru direttament bħala riżultat tal-proġett. Il-valur globali tal-ogġetti ta' konsum ma jistax jaqbeż it-30% tal-Valur tal-Proġett.

Attivitajiet sottokuntrattati: kwalunkwe attività relatata mal-proġett li ma titwettaqx direttament mill-Benefiċjarju tal-Proġett, iżda li titwettaq esternament taħt kundizzjonijiet ta' distakkament. Il-valur globali ta' attivitajiet sottokuntrattati ma jistax jaqbeż il-25% tal-Valur tal-Proġett.

Spejjeż ġenerali: spejjeż ġenerali mgarrba direttament bħala riżultat tal-Proġett huma limitati għal 5% ta' l-ispejjeż eliġibbli.

Spejjeż għal eventwalitajiet mhux maħsuba: spejjeż eliġibbli li ma jiġux deskritti fl-Applikazzjoni iżda li huma komplementari għall-għanijiet tal-Proġett, u li jintużaw sabiex: (i) titkabbar attività eżistenti deskritta fl-Applikazzjoni; u/jew (ii) tipprovdi għal attività ġdida li ma tkunx deskritta fl-Applikazzjoni. Dawn huma limitati għal 2% ta' l-ispejjeż eliġibbli.

4.5 Il-finanzjament taħt dan il-Programm huwa disponibbli biss sakemm l-Applikant ma bbenefikax minn xi forma oħra ta' għajjnuna għall-istess spejjeż eliġibbli li għalihom qed issir applikazzjoni taħt dan il-Programm. Barra minn hekk, mal-iffirmar tal-Grant Agreement, il-Benefiċjarju tal-Proġett huwa awtomatikament ipprojbit milli jaċċetta forom oħra ta' għajjnuna għall-istess spejjeż eliġibbli matul il-Perjodu tal-Proġett.

5. Proċess ta' Applikazzjoni

5.1 Il-proċedura ta' applikazzjoni hija proċess f'żewġ stadji, fejn l-ewwel stadju jikkonsisti fis-sottomissjoni tad-dokumenti tal-proposta u tal-evalwazzjoni ta' l-istess proposta, u fejn fit-tieni stadju jiġu sottomessi d-dokumenti supplimentari meħtieġa u jsir eżerċizzju ta' verifika xierqa fuq l-Applikant.

5.2 L-għażla u l-finanzjament tal-proposti taħt din l-Iskema ser ikunu fuq bażi kompetittiva.

5.3 L-applikazzjonijiet għall-proġetti ser jiġu evalwati permezz ta' proċess f'żewġ stadji:

the period used for the project. Where such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the Project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the Project are considered as eligible. The depreciation costs must be calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles and verified by a Certified Public Accountant.

Scientific information: access to scientific information sources including databases and publications, bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions.

Consumables: the costs of materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly as a result of the project. The overall value of consumables cannot exceed 30% of the Project Value.

Subcontracted activities: any activity related to the project which is not carried out directly by the Project Beneficiary, but which is carried out by outside sources at arm's length conditions. The overall value of subcontracted activities cannot exceed 25% of the Project Value.

Overheads: overheads incurred directly as a result of the Project are capped at 5% of eligible costs.

Contingency: eligible costs which were not previously defined in the application but which are complementary to the aims of the Project, and are used to: (i) augment an existing task defined in the application; and/or (ii) provide for a new task, not previously defined in the application. These are capped at 2% of eligible costs.

4.5 Funding under this Programme is made available on the basis that the Applicant has not benefited from any other form of assistance for the same eligible costs as those being applied for under this Programme. Furthermore, upon signing of the Grant Agreement, the Project Beneficiary is automatically prohibited from accepting other forms of assistance for the same eligible costs over the Project Period.

5. Application Process

5.1 The application procedure is a two-stage process, where the first stage consists of the submission of the project proposal documentation and evaluation thereof, and the second stage consists of the submission of supplementary documentation and a due diligence exercise on the Applicant.

5.2 The selection and funding of proposals under this Scheme shall be on a competitive basis.

5.3 Project applications will be assessed through a two-stage process:

1. L-Ewwel Stadju: Il-Proposta tal-Proġett- Il-bord tal-evalwazzjoni jgħaddi biex jevalwa l-kontenut ta' dawk il-proposti li jinstabu li huma konformi mil-lat amministrattiv, u dan abbażi tal-kriterji speċifikati fir-Regoli għall-Parteċipazzjoni. Proposti li jiksbu marka li taqbeż il-65% f'kull wieħed mit-3 kriterji (Eċċellenza, Impatt, Implimentazzjoni) jiġu mistiedna li jgħaddu għall-istadju li jmiss.

2. It-Tieni Stadju: Dokumenti Supplimentari u Verifika Xierqa: Dan il-pass jinvolve is-sottomissjoni tad-dokumenti supplimentari meħtieġa kif ukoll verifika xierqa fuq l-Applikanti li l-proposta tagħhom taqbeż il-limiti stabbiliti matul l-evalwazzjoni tal-kontenut.

5.4 Biex proġett ikun eliġibbli għall-finanzjament irid jgħaddi iż-żewġ stadji u l-proġetti eliġibbli jiġu kklassifikati skont il-marki miksuba fl-istadju tal-evalwazzjoni tal-kontenut.

5.5 Ladarba titlesta l-evalwazzjoni tat-Tieni Stadju tal-Proċess tal-Applikazzjoni, l-Awtorità Responsabbli tippubblika l-lista tal-applikazzjonijiet għall-proġetti li ġew sottomessi fuq is-sit tal-Aġenzija dwar l-Energija u l-Ilma. Proġetti li huma eliġibbli għall-finanzjament (l-Applikanti li Rnaxxew) jiġu elenkati fl-ordni tal-marka miksuba waqt l-Evalwazzjoni tal-Kontenut; Proġetti li mhumiex eliġibbli għall-finanzjament (Applikanti li ma Rnaxxewx) jiġu elenkati f'ordni alfabetiku. Il-lista ppubblikata ta' Applikanti li Rnaxxew se tinqasam fi tnejn, b'mod li waħda telenka dawk il-Proġetti li se jirċievu l-ewwel offerti ta' appoġġ u l-oħra telenka dawk il-Proġetti fuq il-'lista ta' stennija'.

5.6 Offerti ta' appoġġ għall-Proġetti taħt is-Sejha għall-Proposti tal-2021 għandhom jiġu magħmula lill-Applikanti li Rnaxxew skont l-ordni ta' kif ġew fil-klassifikazzjoni, dan sakemm jew il-fondi jiġu eżawriti jew sakemm ma jkunx fadal aktar Applikanti li Rnaxxew.

5.7 Meta l-Valur tal-Għotja mitlub mill-Applikant li Rnaxxa li lillu jmiss li ssir offerta skond il-klassifikazzjoni jaqbeż l-ammont ta' fondi li fadal sabiex jiġu allokati, offerta ta' appoġġ issir lil dak l-Applikant li Rnaxxa iżda sa massimu tal-bqija tal-fondi li jkun fadal mhux allokati. Jekk l-offerta ma tiġix aċċettata minn dak l-Applikant li Rnaxxa, l-istess offerta ta' appoġġ issir lill-Applikant li Rnaxxa li jmiss warajh, f'konformità mal-ordni ta' klassifikazzjoni ddeterminata mill-marka miksuba matul l-evalwazzjoni tal-kontenut tal-applikazzjoni. Dan il-proċess ikompli sakemm il-fondi li jkun fadal jiġu kollha allokati jew sakemm ma jibqa' l-ebda Applikant li Rnaxxa. Għandu jiġi nmutat li jekk Applikant li Rnaxxa jaċċetta Valur ta' Għotja li jkun inqas mill-ammont mitlub fl-applikazzjoni, il-Proġett kif propost ma jistax jinbidel.

6. Mod ta' applikazzjoni u dokumenti ta' sostenn

6.1 Is-sottomissjonijiet tal-applikazzjoni għandhom isiru billi jintbagħtu elettronikament lil (rni-energywateragency@

1. Stage 1: Project Proposal - The evaluation board shall evaluate the content of project proposals which were found to be administratively compliant, based on the criteria specified in the Rules for Participation. Proposals obtaining a mark exceeding 65% in each of the 3 criteria (Excellence, Impact, Implementation) shall be invited to proceed to the second stage.

2. Stage 2: Supplementary Documentation and Due Diligence - This step involves the submission of the relevant supplementary documentation followed by a due diligence of Applicants whose proposal exceeds the set thresholds during content evaluation.

5.4 For a project to be eligible for funding it must pass both stages and eligible projects will be ranked according to the marks obtained in the content evaluation stage.

5.5 Once the evaluation of Stage 2 of the application process is completed, the Managing Authority shall publish the list of project applications which were submitted on the website of the Energy and Water Agency. Projects which are eligible for funding (the Successful Applicants) will be listed in order of the mark achieved during the Content Evaluation; Projects not eligible for funding (Unsuccessful Applicants) will be listed in alphabetical order. The published list of Successful Applicants will be divided into two sections, indicating those Projects which will receive the first offers of support and those Projects on the 'waiting list'.

5.6 Offers of support for their Projects under the 2021 Call for Proposals shall be provided to Successful Applicants according to the rank order and until the funds are either exhausted or until no Successful Applicants remain.

5.7 When the requested Grant Value of the next ranking Successful Applicant exceeds the remaining unallocated funds, an offer of support will be made to that Successful Applicant but up to a maximum of the remaining unallocated funds. Should the offer not be accepted by that Successful Applicant, the same offer of support will be made to the subsequent Successful Applicant, in line with the ranking order determined by the mark achieved during the content evaluation. This process will continue until all remaining funds have been allocated or until no Successful Applicants remain. It must be noted that should a Successful Applicant accept a Grant Value that is lower than the amount requested in the application, the proposed Project cannot be changed.

6. Manner of application and supporting documents

6.1 The application submissions are to be sent electronically to (rni-energywateragency@gov.mt) with

gov.mt) bil-kliem “2021 Call for Proposals – Application Submission Stage [Insert Stage number]” bħala s-suġġett. Tintbagħat email ta' konferma għall-applikazzjonijiet kollha li jiġu riċevuti. Hija r-responsabbiltà tal-applikant li jiżgura li tiġi pprovduta rċevuta ta' konferma.

6.2 L-applikazzjonijiet kollha għandhom jiġu sottomessi strettament skond ir-Regoli għall-Parteċipazzjoni u għandhom jinkludu dawn li ġejjin:

Formola ta' applikazzjoni

Pjan ta' attivitajiet tal-proġett, skadenzi u riżultati (Gantt Chart)

CV tar-riċerkaturi ewlenin

Dikjarazzjoni GDPR

Jistgħu jkunu meħtieġa dokumenti oħra skont l-applikazzjoni tal-Proġett u l-Aplikant.

6.3 Applikazzjonijiet li jgħaddu l-Ewwel Stadju jiġu meħtieġa li jissottomettu dawn li ġejjin fit-Tieni Stadju:

Formola bid-dettalji tal-Proġett

Dikjarazzjonijiet dwar l-Għajnuna mill-Istat

Dikjarazzjoni dwar avvenimenti ta' inadempjenza

Rapporti finanzjarji awditjati għall-aħħar tliet snin fiskali (tal-Imsieħba kollha f'każ ta' konsorzju) esklużi entitajiet pubbliċi

Jistgħu jiġu meħtieġa dokumenti oħra skont l-applikazzjoni tal-Proġett u l-Aplikant. L-Awtorità Responsabbli tirriżerva d-dritt li fid-diskrezzjoni tagħha titlob garanzija bankarja sabiex tindirizza riskji potenzjali relatati ma' wiehed jew aktar mill-Aplikanti, liema riskji jistgħu jkunu ġew identifikati mill-Awtorità Responsabbli. Il-garanzija bankarja mitluba tista' tilhaq il-massimu ta' 60% tal-appoġġ mitlub mill-Aplikant jew mill-Imsieħeb speċifiku.

6.4 Fejn huwa meħtieġ li jintuża mudell, dan ikun disponibbli fuq is-sit elettroniku tal-Awtorità Responsabbli: (<https://www.energywateragency.gov.mt/schemes/>).

7. Emendi għall-Iskema

Il-Ministeru għall-Enerġija, l-Intrapriża u l-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli għandu d-dritt li minn żmien għal żmien jemenda ir-Regoli applikabbli u, jew kwalunkwe waħda mid-dispozizzjonijiet stabbiliti minn dan l-Avviz tal-Gvern.

Is-16 ta' Marzu, 2021

“2021 Call for Proposals – Application Submission Stage [insert Stage number]” as the subject. All received applications shall be acknowledged by email. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that a confirmation receipt is provided.

6.2 All applications shall be submitted strictly in accordance with the Rules for Participation and shall include the following items at Stage 1:

Application form

Plan of project activities, timeframes and deliverables (Gantt Chart)

CVs of key researchers

GDPR Declaration form(s)

Other documents may be required according to the Project application and the Applicant.

6.3 Applications which successfully pass Stage 1 shall be required to submit the following items at Stage 2:

Project details form

State Aid Declarations

Default event declaration

Audited financial statements for the last 3 fiscal years (of all Partners, in the case of a Consortium) excluding public entities

Other documents may be required according to the Project application and the Applicant. The Managing Authority reserves the right at its discretion to request a bank guarantee to address concerns with regards to potential risks identified by the Managing Authority as being posed by any one or more applicants. The bank guarantee requested may be up to a maximum of 60% of the financial support requested by the specific Applicant or partner.

6.4 Where it is required that a template is used, these will be made available on the website of the Managing Authority: (<https://www.energywateragency.gov.mt/schemes/>).

7. Amendments to Scheme

The Ministry for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development shall have the right to amend from time to time the applicable Rules and, or any of the provisions established by this Government Notice.

16th March, 2021