



# **Small Initiatives Support Scheme**

**Managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector**

## **Guidelines for Applicants**

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## PART A

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT Small Initiatives Support Scheme

#### 1. Introduction

The **Small Initiatives Support Scheme**, herein after referred to as 'SIS', is an initiative managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS), established under Article 35 of the Voluntary Organisations Act, (Chapter 492 of the Laws of Malta).

This call for proposals is being issued by the MCVS under the SIS Scheme. The guidelines for the SIS Scheme (2018) are also published on the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector website ([www.maltacvs.org](http://www.maltacvs.org)). The guidelines constitute an integral part of the call for proposals.

The **SIS Scheme** is designed to assist applicants looking for funding on small projects that can make a real difference to their local communities.

#### 1.1 Objectives

The general objectives establishing the SIS Scheme are the following:

- a) To stimulate co-operation and networking between voluntary organisations.
- b) Providing a consultative forum that can effectively address issues related to the Voluntary Sector.
- c) Provide a platform from which to develop co-operation between voluntary organisations and the Government.
- d) To promote and encourage a culture of volunteering and the participation in volunteer activities among people, especially children and youths, as an aspect of personal and social development.
- e) To foster co-operation in the volunteer sector with local and international bodies, entities or other persons for the encouragement and promotion of the development of volunteering programmes, initiatives and activities.
- f) To encourage, in furtherance of the principle of subsidiarity, non-governmental bodies and private entities or persons and local councils to contribute to the promotion of volunteering in Malta.

## 1.2 Priorities

In addition to the above mentioned general priorities, annual priorities may be fixed for the SIS Scheme.

For 2018, the annual priorities are the following:

- Volunteering

This priority is intended to encourage projects aimed at raising awareness of the value and importance of volunteering as a form of active engagement and as a tool to develop or improve competences for personal, social and professional development.

- Poverty and Social Inclusion

This priority is intended to encourage projects addressing the issues of poverty and marginalization and hate speech by focusing on actions such as enhancing awareness and commitment amongst the Maltese society to make it more inclusive. In this context, special emphasis shall be placed on the inclusion of migrants, disabled young people, and other marginalized minorities in fulfilling their potential.

- Education

This priority is intended to encourage projects addressing the issues related to education with special focus on the support of marginalized and more challenged groups in the Maltese society.

- Arts, Culture and Sports

This priority is intended to encourage projects to address enhancements of awareness in artistic and cultural heritage amongst the Maltese society. Projects in the area of Culture and cultural heritage are also encouraged to address and support initiatives which may be part of the *Valletta 2018 City of Culture*. Also projects should encourage local initiatives aimed in raising people's awareness of the sport sector, highlighting its contribution to healthy lifestyle and social development through an inclusive approach to fulfill the potential of the Maltese citizens.

- Research

This priority is intended to encourage projects addressing research to compliment other priorities addressed in this call. Research can be carried out in regard to all aspects of the organisation such as capacity building, services, training and volunteering. The sector is constantly seeking to identify innovative approaches through an evidence based approach which will induce the organisations to become more effective and relevant towards societal needs.

## **2. What is the budget?**

The fund for 2018 will be of €100,000. The period of implementation should commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and terminate on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and the projects should be implemented over a maximum period of 12 consecutive months. The SIS Project Selection Committee may decide to increase the projects assigned in the case of residual funds and also reserves the right not to allocate all the funds available. The decision of the SIS Project Selection Committee is final and indisputable.

## **3. What is the structure of the Small Initiatives Support Scheme?**

### **3.1 Eligible Projects**

In order to achieve its objectives, the SIS Scheme foresees projects which fall under the established priorities.

### **3.2 Criteria**

To apply under the SIS Scheme your project should be:

- Not less than €1,000 and not more than €3,000.
- Initiated not earlier than the 1<sup>st</sup> January of 2018.
- Completed in 12 consecutive months.
- Containing all information required at the point of e-application (including annexes).

## **4. Who implements the Small Initiatives Support Scheme?**

The MCVS is ultimately responsible for the running of the SIS Scheme. It manages the budget and sets priorities, targets and criteria for the SIS Scheme on an ongoing basis. Furthermore, it guides and monitors the general implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the SIS Scheme. The MCVS bears overall responsibility for the supervision and monitoring of the ongoing projects.

The MCVS's tasks are also to:

- Provide appropriate information on the SIS Scheme.
- Administer a transparent and equitable selection process for project e-applications to be funded through the SIS Scheme.
- Provide effective and efficient administrative processes in the evaluation process and in the implementation of the SIS Scheme.
- Evaluate and monitor the implementation of the SIS Scheme.

- Provide support to project applicants and beneficiaries throughout the project life cycle.
- Improve the visibility of the SIS Scheme.
- Promote the dissemination and exploit the results of the SIS Scheme at national level.

## **5. Who can participate in the Small Initiatives Support Scheme?**

### **5.1 Eligible applicants**

Voluntary Organisations submitting e-applications must:

- Be enrolled with the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector.
- Be in compliance with the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector by the deadline of the submission of e-applications.
- Fall in the first two financial brackets according to the LN 379 of 2012 (annual turnover under €200,000).

## PART B - INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHEME

### 6. What are the criteria used to assess a Small Initiatives Support Scheme?

<b>6.1 Eligibility Criteria</b>	
<b>Eligible applicants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicants must be non-profit and non-governmental organisations which are enrolled with the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector</li> <li>• Voluntary organisations in compliance with the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector by the deadline of the submission of e-applications.</li> <li>• Voluntary Organisations who fall in the first two financial brackets according to the LN 379 of 2012 (annual turnover under €200,000)</li> </ul>
<b>Number of e-applications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only one e-application per Voluntary Organisation shall be submitted in this deadline. This implies that an organisation may only benefit from one e-application, both as a direct applicant and as a project beneficiary.</li> </ul>
<b>Duration of project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of 12 consecutive months which fall between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Calendar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of the activity must be annexed to the e-application form.</li> </ul>
<b>Where to apply?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-applications must be submitted to the Malta Council of the Voluntary Sector online accessed via:  <a href="http://www.vofunding.org.mt">www.vofunding.org.mt</a> </li> </ul>
<b>When to apply?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The e-application shall open on the: <b>23rd October 2017<sup>1</sup></b></li> <li>• The deadline of submission of e-applications:  <b>24th November 2017 till noon.</b> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Kindly note that e-applications cannot be accessed online prior to the opening of the call

<p><b>How to apply?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-applications must be submitted to the Malta Council of the Voluntary Sector online accessed via:</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.vofunding.org.mt">www.vofunding.org.mt</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Safety procedures of project</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant must guarantee that appropriate measures are implemented as part of the project proposal, to ensure the safety and protection of participants directly involved in the project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6.2 Exclusion criteria</b></p>	
<p><b>Exclusion criteria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project proposal is or has not been granted through another EU/national fund.</li> <li>• Also as per Article 9.1.b of these guidelines - Exclusion criteria</li> </ul>
<p><b>6.3 Selection Criteria</b></p>	
<p><b>Financial capacity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant must show that they have adequate financial capacity to support the final payment of 30% until they are reimbursed following satisfactory evaluation of final report and financial documentation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Operational capacity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant must show that they have the adequate operational capacity that is the necessary people, skills, competencies and motivation to complete the proposed project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6.4 Award criteria</b>                  Refer to Annex 2 - Eligibility Criteria/Marking Scheme</p>	



## 7. What are the funding rules?

<b>Overview of funding rules</b>					
The budget of the project must be drafted according to the following funding rules:					
	<b>Eligible costs</b>	<b>Financing mechanism</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Rule of allocation</b>	<b>Reporting obligations</b>
<b>Activity costs</b>	Any cost directly linked to the implementation of the project.	Lump sum	100% of eligible costs	Provided that it is consistent with the budget presented in this e-application.	Full justification of the costs incurred (including quotations where applicable), original invoices, cash sales and VAT receipts. Achievements to be described in final report.
<b>Costs for additional dissemination and exploitation of results</b>	Costs linked to additional dissemination and exploitation of project's results.	Lump sum	100% of eligible costs	Conditional: additional dissemination and exploitation activities must be clearly outlined in the e-application form.	Full justification of the costs incurred (including quotations where applicable), original invoices, cash sales and VAT receipts. Achievements to be described in final report.

## 8. How to develop a good project?

The 'Eligibility Criteria/Marking Scheme' table on page 7/8 lists the criteria against which the quality of a project will be assessed.

*Here is some advice which may help you to develop a good project.*

### 8.1 Quality of project design

#### a) Quality of the preparation phase

The preparation phase is of crucial importance for the success of a project. During this phase, the organisation should choose and commonly agree on a theme relevant to the organisation itself and to the local community. They should look at creating a well-structured programme of the activities by presenting a timetable, including working methods and the benefits of their project for the local community.

#### b) Quality of the activity programme

The activity programme should be linked to the objectives of the project, to the project outcomes and it should be clearly defined, realistic and balanced.

#### c) Quality of the marketing of the programme

The marketing programme should be linked to the activity programme and each activity should be communicated to the target population of the project and the Maltese general public (if possible).

#### d) Quality of project content and methodology

- **Theme of the project**

The project should have a clearly identified theme and should reflect the interests and needs of participants. Some examples of potential project themes are art and culture, social exclusion, environment, heritage protection, youth information, European awareness, rural/urban development, health in the community, anti-racism/xenophobia, disability, support for the elderly, homelessness, migrants, equal opportunities, peer education, unemployment, sports, leisure, media and communications, etc. The theme has to be translated into the concrete activities/outcomes.

- **Innovative creativity and entrepreneurship**

Within the context of SIS scheme the accent is put on promotion of innovative elements in the project. The project should aim at introducing, implementing and promoting innovative approaches. These innovative aspects may be related to the content and objectives of the activity, the involvement of promoters from different backgrounds, creative and unexplored ways of solving problems related to the community, experimentation with new methodologies and project formats or dissemination of the project results.

- **Active involvement of participants in the project**

The activity programme and working methods should aim to have an impact on the members of the organisation and on the Maltese community. The project should engage the active involvements of the members of the organisation and Maltese citizens possibly identified as target population of the activity. Participants should also be actively involved in the preparation and evaluation phases of the project as one of the project outcomes.

e) **Quality of project reach**

- **Impact, multiplier effect and follow-up**

The impact of SIS scheme should not be limited to the participants in the activity. Applicants should, as much as possible, involve other people (from the neighbourhood, local area, etc.) in the Activity.

- **Visibility of the project/visibility of Small Initiatives Support Scheme**

Promoters should reflect together on measures aimed at enhancing the visibility of their project and the visibility of the SIS Scheme. The creativity of applicants in offering additional potential whilst disseminating information about the planned activity, and the opportunities offered by the SIS Scheme will be highly scored in the evaluation process. Visibility measures mainly occur before and during the implementation of the initiative. Such measures can be divided into two broad categories:

- **Visibility of the project**

Beneficiaries and participants should 'publicize' the project - as well as its aims and objectives. In order to raise awareness of the project the beneficiary could for example develop information material; send a mail shot or SMS mailing; prepare posters, stickers, promotional items (t-shirts, caps, pens, etc.); invite journalists to observe; issue 'press releases' or write articles for local papers, develop websites or newsletters; engage in social network activities such as creating a Facebook page; create an e-group, a web space, a photo-gallery or blog on the Internet.

- **Visibility of the Small Initiatives Support Scheme**

The compulsory use of the official logo of the SIS Scheme should be included in all of the project material used for communication purposes (internal and external). The communication objectives should include a description of the multiplier effect of the Small Initiatives Support Scheme on the Maltese society whilst also outlining the opportunities offered by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector through the Scheme.

## **PART C - INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

**All applicants who intend to submit a project in order to be considered for financial support from the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector – Small Initiatives Support Scheme are invited to read carefully this section.**

### **9. What do you have to do in order to submit a Small Initiatives Support Scheme project?**

To submit a project proposal under the SIS Scheme you must the following three steps:

1. Check that your project complies with the Scheme criteria.
2. Check that you present an accurate budget proposal.
3. Fill in and submit your e-application form without leaving any missing Annexes that are required.

#### **9.1 Check compliance with the Scheme criteria**

As applicant and potential beneficiary, you must verify and ensure that your project meets the eligibility; does not include any exclusion criteria; is aligned to the selection criteria and outlines the award criteria.

##### **a) Eligibility criteria**

The eligibility criteria relate to the project type, the target group and the conditions for submitting a grant request under the SIS Scheme. If your project does not meet the eligibility criteria, it will be rejected without being further evaluated (as stated in Annex 1 – Eligibility Criteria/Marking Scheme). To be deemed eligible, your project must meet all the eligibility criteria. For details of the eligibility criteria please consult Part B of this Guide.

##### **b) Exclusion criteria**

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the SIS Scheme if they are in any of the following situations:

- They are bankrupt or being wound up.
- They are having their affairs administered by the courts, and/or have entered into an arrangement with creditors, and/or have suspended business activities, and/or are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, and/or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.
- They are under investigation by the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations.
- They have not submitted their financial returns to the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations according to the LN 379 of 2012.
- They have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*.

- They have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify.
- They have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority.
- They have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the MCVS's financial interests.
- They are following another procurement disciplinary procedure or grant award procedure financed by the MCVS or any other Government Agency; they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Applicants will not be granted financial assistance if, on the date of the signing of the grant award, they:

- Are subject to a conflict of interests.
- Are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure, or fail to supply this information.

These exclusion criteria apply to the SIS Scheme.

**c) Selection criteria**

The selection criteria enable the External Evaluators to assess the applicant's financial and operational capacity to complete the proposed project.

**d) Financial capacity** means the applicant has stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout the project.

The applicant must submit with the e-application:

- A copy of the financial statements for the last financial year for which accounts have been closed as presented to the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector.

If, on the basis of these documents, the External Evaluators conclude that the required financial documentation has not been provided or is not satisfactory, then they may:

- Ask for further information and/or documentation.
- Reject the e-application.

**e) Operational capacity** means that the applicant must show that they have the adequate operational capacity that is the necessary people, skills, competencies and motivation to complete the proposed project. This constitutes a specific section of the e-application form.

#### **f) Award criteria**

The award criteria are indicators/outcomes that allow the External Evaluators to evaluate the quality of projects submitted for grants. On the basis of these criteria, grants will be awarded to those projects which are maximizing and aligned to the overarching objectives of the SIS Scheme.

The award criteria indicated in Part B of these guidelines describe exactly which elements will be taken into consideration in order to assess the quality of the project.

### **9.2 Check the financial conditions**

#### **a) Types of grant**

The grant under the SIS Scheme is of a lump sum (fixed amounts) approach. 70% of the contracted grant will be given to the beneficiary on signing of the agreement. The final balance of 30% will be given to the beneficiary only on submission of a satisfactory final report, inclusive of complete financial documentation, following the closure of the project.

#### **b) Co-financing**

Co-financing implies that the SIS Scheme grant may not finance the entire costs of the project because the total sum requested is greater than the maximum possible fund allocation by the SIS Scheme. In this case the applicant may complement the sum granted through the voluntary organisation's own financial resources or by seeking private assistance.

Contributions in kind are considered an eligible source of co-financing. The value calculated for such contributions must not exceed:

- The costs actually borne and duly supported by accounting documents of the third parties who made these contributions to the beneficiary free of charge but bear the corresponding costs.
- The costs generally accepted on the market in question for the type of contribution concerned when no costs are borne.

#### **c) No double-financing**

A project supported under the SIS Scheme may not be in receipt of any other Government or European Union funding.

To avoid the risk of double-financing, the applicant must indicate in the relevant section of the e-application form, the sources and the amounts of any other funding received or applied for in the same financial year.

### 9.3 Fill in and submit the e-application form

Once an applicant assumes the role of coordinator, the applicant must submit to the SIS Project Selection Committee a single e-application for the whole project on behalf of all the promoters. If the e-application is positively assessed and selected, the applicant will be the beneficiary of a single grant agreement proposed by the SIS Scheme for the funding of the project.

Any Voluntary Organization can apply as project coordinator or project partner in ONLY one project e-application per yearly deadline.

#### a) E-application procedure

The eligibility criteria to be met regarding the procedure to be followed for the submission of a project are described in Part B of these guidelines. Furthermore, the applicants must respect the provisions described below.

An e-application will be accepted only if:

1. Submitted via the correct e-application form which is completed in full.
2. It shows a budget in conformity with these guidelines.
3. It is accompanied by all the requested additional documentation.
4. It is submitted by the stipulated deadline.

***Please note that not more than one project can be submitted by the same applicant organisation.***

#### b) Use the official e-application form

E-applications must be submitted only through the following link:  
[www.vofunding.org.mt](http://www.vofunding.org.mt)

#### c) Provide proof of your legal status

The **successful** applicants must be enrolled and compliant with the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector.

#### d) Estimated budget

E-applications must include a detailed estimated budget (included in the e-application form) in which all prices are given in Euros (€).

Any e-application which exceeds the maximum limits will not be automatically excluded but will be scaled down within the limits set by the guidelines.

***No changes can be made after the e-application has been submitted.***

## **10. What happens once the e-application is submitted?**

All e-applications received by the SIS Project Selection Committee will undergo an evaluation and selection procedure.

### **10.1 The evaluation and selection procedure**

The selection of e-applications is as follows:

1. All e-applications are checked against the eligibility criteria, the selection criteria and the exclusion criteria.
2. Those e-applications which have successfully passed these checks are evaluated by two independent external evaluators and ranked accordingly.
3. In case of a 20% or more variant between the final marks of the two External Evaluators, a third External Evaluator shall be asked to evaluate the project e-application.

*The process is described in Annex I titled Eligibility Criteria/Marking Scheme.*

### **10.2 Decision**

Once the evaluation, including the verification of financial conditions is completed, the Fund Manager prepares a ranking list in order of final mark of each project.

The SIS Project Selection Committee shall endorse the ranking list and decides on the projects to be granted funding, based on the ranking order and the budget available. The SIS Project Selection Committee decision is final and indisputable.

### **10.3 Notification of award decisions**

Applicants should be notified with the selection results within a month of the closure of the e-application deadline. All successful applicants will be informed in writing.

## **11. What happens if your e-application is approved?**

### **11.1 Grant agreement**

In the event of definitive approval by the SIS Project Selection Committee, a grant agreement is drawn up between the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector and the beneficiary. The agreement is drawn up in Euros (€) and details the conditions and funding amount. The grant decision is a unilateral act awarding a subsidy to a beneficiary.

For projects approved by the SIS Project Selection Committee, it is intended that beneficiaries should receive the agreements for signature by the 31<sup>st</sup> March



2018. This agreement must be signed and returned to the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector will be the last party to sign.

## **11.2 Grant amount**

Acceptance of an e-application does not necessarily constitute an undertaking to award funding equal to the amount requested by the applicant (this funding could be reduced).

The awarding of a grant does not establish an entitlement for subsequent years.

It should be noted that the grant amount foreseen by the agreement is to be considered as a maximum which cannot be increased in any circumstances.

Furthermore, the amount allocated may not exceed the amount requested.

## **11.3 Eligible costs**

In order to be eligible under this SIS Scheme, costs must:

- Be necessary for the implementation of the project.
- Be included in the provisional budget attached to the agreement.
- Be consistent with the principles of sound financial management, in terms of value for money and cost-effectiveness.
- Be incurred during the lifetime of the project as defined in the agreement.
- Be truly and actually incurred by the beneficiary.
- Be recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with applicable accounting principles.
- Be deposited in a standalone account.
- Be declared in accordance with the requirements of the applicable tax and social security legislation.
- Be identifiable and verifiable, and be backed up by original supporting documents.

### **11.3.1 Eligible direct costs**

Eligible direct costs are costs which, with due regard for the conditions of eligibility set out above, are identifiable as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the project and which can therefore be booked to it directly.

- Staff costs are eligible but are limited to a maximum of 15% of the allocated total direct cost. Staff costs are only applicable when the VO has staff employed on its payroll.
- Hospitality (catering) costs are eligible but are limited to a maximum of 10% of the allocated total direct cost.

- Marketing costs are eligible but are limited to a maximum of 5% of the allocated total direct cost.

### **11.3.2 Eligible indirect costs (administrative costs)**

A flat rate amount not exceeding 5% of the eligible direct costs of the project is eligible under indirect costs, representing the beneficiary's general administrative costs which can be regarded as chargeable to the project such as postage, photocopying, transport etc. Indirect costs may not include costs already entered under another budget heading.

### **11.4 Payment procedures with one pre-financing installment**

The projects supported under the SIS Scheme will be subject to a payment procedure consisting of one pre-financing payment and a final payment/recovery of the balance due, as described below:

#### **a) Pre-financing payment**

A pre-financing payment of 70% will be transferred to the beneficiary within 30 days of the date when the last of the two parties signs the agreement. Pre-financing is intended to provide the beneficiary with a float.

#### **b) Payment or recovery of the balance**

1. The amount of the final payment to be made to the beneficiary will be established on the basis of the complete final report which is to be submitted within one month following the end date of the project.
2. The report shall be presented in a typed format either in soft or hard copy.
3. The beneficiary must provide documents giving evidence that the activities organised with the support of the SIS Scheme funding effectively took place. These shall include:
  - i. A final report on the implementation of the project.
  - ii. A final detailed financial statement of eligible costs actually incurred, following the structure of the estimated budget, which justifies the funding requested expressed as a percentage of the eligible costs actually incurred.
  - iii. A full summary statement of the actual receipts and expenditure of the project.
  - iv. Full justification of the costs incurred (including quotations where applicable), original invoices, cash sales and VAT receipts.
  - v. Achievements to be described in final report.

4. If the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary during the project are lower than the pre-financing payment, the beneficiary will be required to refund excess amounts already transferred under the pre-financing payments.

## 12. Other main contractual provisions

### 12.1 Non retroactivity

1. No grant may be awarded retrospectively for projects already completed.
2. Expenditure eligible for financing may not have been incurred prior to the date of commencement of the project on the e-application form.
3. A grant may be awarded for a project which has already begun following the publication of the results and only where the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the project before the agreement has been signed.
4. Starting the project before signing the grant agreement is done at the risk of the beneficiary.

### 12.2 Finance, Sub-contracting and award of procurement contract

1. In all cases beneficiaries shall abide fully with Public Procurement Regulations.
2. In all cases the beneficiaries are obliged to allocate a specific bank account solely for the use of the grant award.
3. In those cases where the implementation of the project requires sub-contracting or the award of procurement contracts, beneficiaries of grants shall award the contract to the tender offering best value for money, that is to say, to the tender offering the best price-quality ratio, while taking care to avoid any conflict of interest.

When undergoing the project under the SIS Scheme, beneficiaries must abide with the below procurement thresholds and relevant requirements so as to guarantee transparency and accountability.

PROCUREMENT THRESHOLDS		
RANGES	MADE THROUGH	REQUIREMENTS
Under EUR 250	Direct Order	Justification for direct order
EUR 251 – EUR 2,500	Minimum of 3 quotations	Request for quotations
		Receipt and Filing of Quotations
		Adverts (not mandatory)
		Reference / Notification to selected bidder
		Agreement with bidder

EUR 2,501 – EUR 6,000	Public Expression of Interest/ Tender	Expression of Interest/ Tender Document
		Adverts & Publication Expression of Interest/Tender
		Evaluation of Expression of Interest/ Tender
		Publication of Results & communication to bidders
		Agreement / Contract and Addenda where necessary

### 12.3 Sub-contracting and award of procurement contract

In those cases where the implementation of the project requires sub-contracting or the award of procurement contracts, beneficiaries of grants shall award the contract to the tender offering best value for money, that is to say, to the tender offering the best price-quality ratio, while taking care to avoid any conflict of interest.

### 12.4 Information on the grants awarded

Grants awarded in the course of a financial year must be published on the website of the MCVS during the first half of the year following the closure of the financial year for which they were awarded. The information may also be published in any other appropriate medium, including the MCVS facebook page. The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector will publish the following information:

- Name and address of the beneficiary.
- Purpose of the grant.
- Amount awarded and rate of funding.

### 12.5 Publicity

Apart from the measures foreseen for the visibility of the project and for the dissemination and exploitation of its results (which are award criteria), there is an obligation of minimal publicity for each granted project. Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector's support in all communications or publications, in whatever form or whatever medium, including the Internet, or on the occasion of activities for which the grant is used.

This must be done according to the following instructions:

1. Use of the MCVS and the SIS logos (as shown in the image below).
2. Use of credits and disclaimer text stating the following: "This project has been funded by the Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS), managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector (MCVS). This project/publication reflects the views only of the author, and the MCVS cannot be held responsible for the content or any use which may be made of the information contained therein."

The font *Arial* must be used when quoting this text. If these provisions are not fully complied with, the beneficiary's grant may be reduced.

**Beneficiaries are to use the official logos of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector(MCVS) and of the Small Initiatives Support Scheme (SIS) and any other publicity material such as credits and disclaimers as per Marketing Guidelines published by MCVS.**

*If these provisions are not fully complied with, the beneficiary's grant may be reduced.*

### **12.6 Audits and monitoring**

A granted project may be subject to monitoring visits. The beneficiary will undertake, with the signature of its legal representative, to provide proof that the grant has been used correctly. The Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector may itself check or appoint an authorised delegate to audit the use made of the grant at any time during the term of the agreement. Such audits may be carried out up to 24 months from the date of the signing of the Grant Agreement. Consequently all documentation pertaining to this project including copies of invoices and fiscal receipts (VAT) should be retained for audit purposes. Original of invoices and fiscal receipts (VAT) shall be submitted to MCVS with the final report.

### **12.7 Recovery of Funds**

The audit conclusions may necessitate that the Grant Award, in full or in part, may be recovered from the applicant Voluntary Organisation due to a failure to honour one or more of the conditions stated in the Grant Agreement.

Recovery may also be applied in the case of underutilization/wrong utilization of the previously advanced 70% payment.

### **12.8 Data protection**

All personal data contained in the e-application forms and grant agreements shall be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act as per local legislation.

This data will be processed solely in connection with the implementation and evaluation of the SIS Scheme, without prejudice to the possibility of transferring such data to the bodies responsible for inspection and audit appointed by the Ministry for Education and Employment and/or the Ministry of Finance, through whom the funds for the SIS Scheme are made available.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## ANNEX I

### ANNEX I

#### Annex I – Eligibility Criteria / Marking Scheme

Project Code	
Yes/No	Complete e-application form
Yes/No	Fits with one or more of the focus areas of the intervention
Yes/No	Applicant not receiving funding from other sources for the same project
Yes/No	Applicant is not in any of the situations which would prevent it from receiving a grant, as per Part C of this Guide
Yes/No	Project remit falls within the mandate of the applicant
Yes/No	The applicant is enrolled and compliant with the Commissioner for VOs
Yes/No	Applied for only one project
Yes/No	Maximum project duration is of 12 months (including preparatory phase)
Yes/No	The project should be innovative and not a repeat of previously approved projects by the same organisation
Yes/No	Submitted supporting financial documentation
10	Financial Projections
15	Relevance towards objectives and priorities of SIS
10	Project overview and programme of events
10	Project sustainability
10	Operational capacity of applicant to undergo project
25	The quality of project (content and methodology)
10	The extent of project reach
10	Involvement of people with fewer opportunities
<b>100</b>	<b>Total Marks:</b>
	<b>Ranking:</b>

## Annex II – Evaluation Process

