





GAG3 – Gozo Attractions and Innovative Events for all Seasons - Develop Gozo's allseason tourism product offering (Third Call)

03rd of January 2023

The Rural Development Programme for Malta 2014-2020



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European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) Co-financing rate: 75% EU Funds; 25% National Funds









Introduction

- M19.2 (LEADER) of the EAFRD for Gozo and Comino
 - Original Budget €1,474,440
 - Committed €1,474,044

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Introduction

- December 2021 Expression of Interest for Additional Budget
 - Gozo Action Group Foundation €768,345.14

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Introduction

Distribution of Additional Budget

GAG4 (Second Call) - Reserve List

€304,967.20

New Calls

GAG2 (Second Call)

• GAG3 (Second Call)

GAG3 (Third Call)

€100,000.00 – No Applications

€363,377.94 – No projects were selected

€463,377.94 – NEW CALL

Total

€768,345.14

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General and Specific Objectives of the measure for Gozo

- 'Climate and Environment': the physical investment undertaken through this action are expected to lead to environmental amelioration and better climate performance, ideally by also focusing on related tourism niches;
- 'Gozo Lifestyle': the events supporting investments are expected to preserve, valorise and evolve distinctive and unique features of Gozitan lifestyle;
- 'Cultural Heritage': the action is expected to create investment and events which preserve cultural heritage assets and valorising their economic competitiveness.

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Type of Operations

- The action will provide resources to:
 - Development of infrastructure, including green infrastructure, aimed at attracting tourists all year round but especially in the off-peak season (September to May) and for longer stays, ideally valorising the tourism attractiveness across localities within the territory, with a strong emphasis on sustainability;
 - Development of innovative events to attract international and domestic tourists all year round but especially in the off-peak season (September to May), ideally in synergy with the development of infrastructures, and which would lead to financially sustainable activities with the involvement of the business community;
 - Enhance the involvement of Gozo Local Councils and NGOs in the improvements of the Gozitan tourism all year round but especially in the off-peak tourism (September to May) product, mainly in valorising the natural and cultural environment as bases for the development of sustainable and sustained tourism activity.

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Type of Support

 Small-scale infrastructural interventions contributing to all seasons but especially off-peak season tourism activities in localities;

• The organisation of up to eight events during the programming period.

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Eligible Investment supported:

Change from the original Measure

• Investment in infrastructures, up to 90% of budget

• Event organisation, a minimum of 10% of budget

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Aid Intensity

- For the scope of this call, beneficiaries will receive 80% of the total eligible project costs as public funds with the other 20% coming as a private contribution;
- The Measure Budget (Total Public Expenditure) is €463,377.94 (80%)
- The maximum grant support is capped at €180,000 (80%)
- The minimum grant support is capped at €95,000 (80%)

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Eligible Localities where the project can be undertaken:

Rural Localities within the Gozo Action Group Foundation territory			
Fontana	Għajnsielem	Għarb	
Għasri	Kerċem	Munxar	
Nadur	Qala	Rabat (Citta' Victoria)	
Sannat	San Lawrenz	Xagħra	
Xewkija	Żebbug		

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Eligible Beneficiaries:

- Applications are accepted from entities regularly operating or providing a service within the geographic area covered by the GAGF.
- Applicants must include partnerships between one of each of the following:
 - business operators with a direct interest in tourism and/or representatives' bodies thereof,
 - Local Councils and/or public governance entities with a direct interest in the Gozo region, and
 - NGOs.
- Minimum of 3 partners

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Eligible Beneficiaries:

- It is important to note that:
 - Private undertakings where eligible, are to be limited to SME's. Large firms (as per Eurostat definition), are excluded.
 - NGOs refer to entities that are enrolled and fully compliant with the Voluntary Organisations Act and its subsidiary legislation 492.02 (Annual Returns and Annual Accounts) Regulations 2012.
 - Any one entity (whether main beneficiary and/or partner) can apply for one or more of the measures but cannot participate under different / competing applications (including applications already awarded) within the same measure.

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Indicators and Targets

Number of Local Councils (municipalities) affected by physical interventions:	5
Number of business affected by improved infrastructures and events:	5
Number of NGOs affected by action:	5
Number of cultural/environmental heritage tourism amenities improved:	6

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Selection criteria and Sub-criteria

	SELECTION CRITERIA	Maximum POINTS
1.	Number of distinct infrastructural interventions supported by the project (5 points per intervention up to a maximum of 15 points)	15 points
2.	Number of distinct events supported by the project. (5 points per intervention up to a maximum of 10 points)	10 points
3.	The degree of financial sustainability of the project:	
	i. during project implementation; and	5 points
	ii. after project implementation.	10 points
4.	The quality of the project in terms of:	
	i. the potential for the infrastructure developed to attract tourists all year round	10 points
	ii. the potential for events to attract tourists in the off-peak seasons	10 points
	iii. the degree of synergy between infrastructures developed and events proposed	5 points
	iv. creating opportunities for climate and environmental performance improvements in Gozo	5 points
	v. creating opportunities for innovative activities in Gozo	5 points
	vi. the potential to create jobs in Gozo	5 points
5.	Overall quality of the project proposal.	5 points
6.	Implementation readiness.	5 points
7.	Number of partners in proposed project (2 points per partner up to a maximum of 10 points)	10 points
	TOTAL:	100 points



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Timeframes:

- 02nd of January 2023 Opening of call
 - Guidelines and application are available online
- 19th of January 2023 at noon Deadline of submission for clarifications
- 26th of January 2023 at noon Application Submission by hand at the GAGF office
 - Late Applications will not be considered

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Timeframes:

- Subject to budget availability
- 16th of February 2023 at noon Deadline of submission for clarifications
- 23rd of February 2023 at noon Application Submission by hand at the GAGF office
 - Late Applications will not be considered

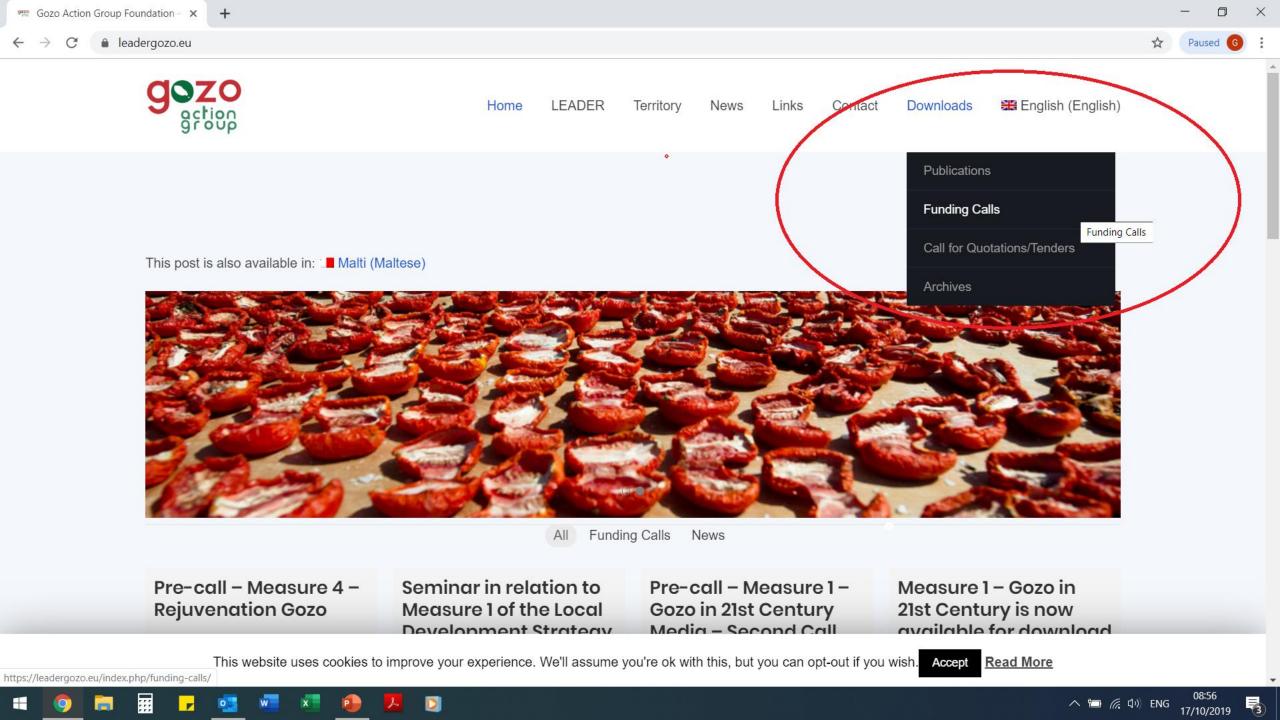
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Important Points:

 Projects have to completed within a limited timeframe - 31st March 2024.

• The competitive selection process will be undertaken by the Project Selection Committee (PSC).

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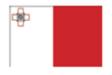


Ranking

- Total Budget €463,377.94
- 3 applications requesting €463,000

Reference	Beneficiary	Marks	Budget Allocated
0002	В	78	€180,000
0003	С	76	€103,000
0001	Α	74	€180,000

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Ranking

- Total Budget €463,377.94
- 3 applications €510,000
- Project 0002 requested
 €180,000

Reference	Beneficiary	Marks	Budget Allocated
0003	С	78	€150,000
0001	Α	74	€180,000
0002	В	70	€133,000 (offered the residual budget)

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Ranking

- Total Budget €463,377.94
- 4 applications €610,000
- Project 0002 on the reserve list due to no more budget availability

Reference	Beneficiary	Marks	Budget Allocated
0003	С	78	€180,000
0001	Α	74	€180,000
0004	D	72	€103,000
Reserve List			
0002	В	70	€150,000

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<u>Implementation</u>

- Actions financed under this Measure are to be implemented and payment documentation submitted till the 31st March 2024
- 50% Advance Payment.
- Interim payments.
- Final 20% issued by the Paying Agency only after the project is completed.

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Procurement

- Local Councils are to strictly adhere to the Procurement Guidelines issued by the Department for Local Government.
- Private Undertakings to follow MA PA EAFRD Circular 01/2021https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/EU%20Funds%20Programmes/European%20Agricultural%20Fund/Documents/Circular s/2021/MA%20PA%20EAFRD%20Circular%2001-2021.pdf.
- ARPA Guidelines https://agriculture.gov.mt/en/arpa/Documents/guidelines/investmentMeasuresPaymentGuidelinesFinalEN-V3.0.pdf

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Contact Details of the Gozo Action Group Foundation

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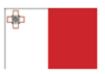






Questions?

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