



Internationalisation Opportunities – Malta Council for Science and Technology

Corinne Muscat Terribile
Deputy Director Internationalisation Unit (MCST)



1. Introduction

Mission - to strengthen international collaboration amongst local and foreign stakeholders in the field of R&I.

Objectives -

- Expand international strategic partnerships
- Promote international R&I collaboration
- Science diplomacy
- Enhance Malta's attractiveness as an R&I destination



2. General Concepts

Technology Readiness Levels

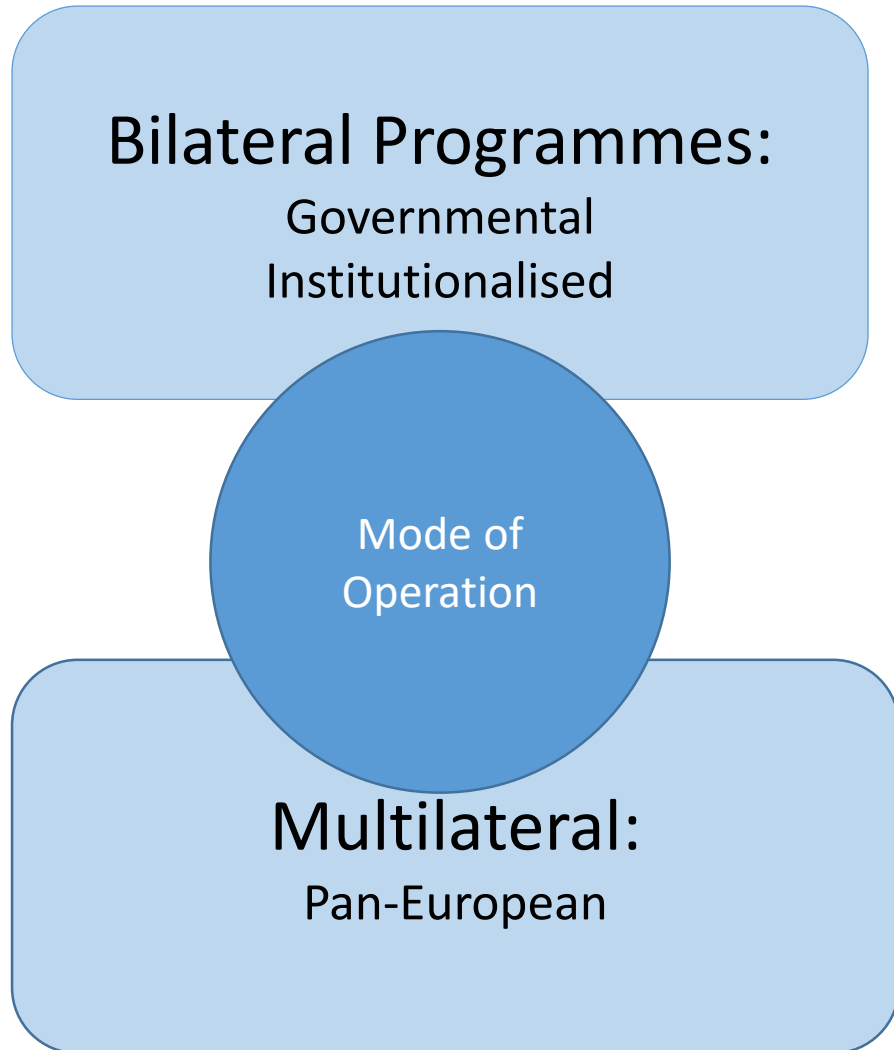
- TRL 0: Idea.** Unproven concept, no testing has been performed.
- TRL 1: Basic research.** Principles postulated and observed but no experimental proof available.
- TRL 2: Technology formulation.** Concept and application have been formulated.
- TRL 3: Applied research.** First laboratory tests completed; proof of concept.
- TRL 4: Small scale prototype** built in a laboratory environment ("ugly" prototype).
- TRL 5: Large scale prototype** tested in intended environment.
- TRL 6: Prototype system** tested in intended environment close to expected performance.
- TRL 7: Demonstration system** operating in operational environment at pre-commercial scale.
- TRL 8: First of a kind commercial system.** Manufacturing issues solved.
- TRL 9: Full commercial application,** technology available for consumers.



Thematic Areas

- Agriculture
- Blue Economy
- Digital Technologies
- Food
- Green Transitions
- Health
- Maritime services
- Water Management

Types of Programmes



Projects shall need to be made of a consortia of partners:

- **Bilateral Programmes** - At least two partners, one from each country
- **Multilateral Programmes** - Minimum size of consortium shall depend on the programme (usually not less than 3 partners coming from 3 different countries)

Finding Partners:

- Networking activities (organised locally or programme level)
- Partner search facility (locally through Plumtri.org or online platform at programme level)

Ongoing Programmes



MCST TÜBİTAK 2021
JOINT CALL FOR R&I PROPOSALS



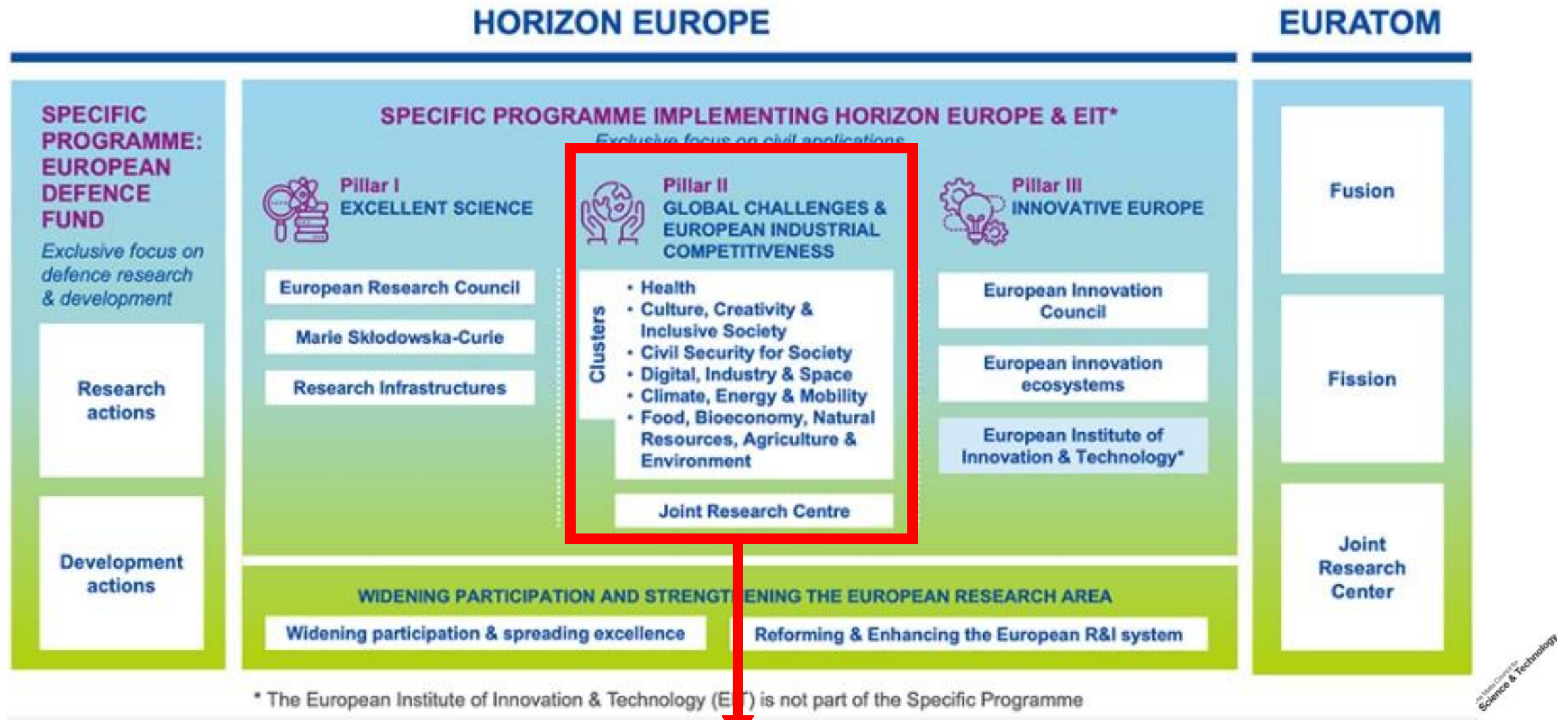
**Marine & Maritime
Technologies**



**R&I in the Blue Bio
economy to strengthen
Blue Growth**



Future funding opportunities



Member State-led Partnerships

Future funding opportunities



From 2021 onwards, the Internationalisation Unit will also be taking on board the implementation phase of the following Horizon Europe Partnerships:

- **European Partnership for Clean Energy Transition**
- **European Partnership on Health and Care Systems Transformation**
- **European Partnership for a climate neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy**

- Partnerships will be a key implementation tool of Horizon Europe and contribute significantly to achieving the **EU's political priorities**.
- Many transitions and challenges require **EU-wide coordination** and **systemic solutions**.
- The EU will team up with Member States and industry in a partnership to develop a shared long-term vision and to **co-invest in solutions**
- European Partnerships are critical to accelerate the required **green** and **digital transitions** that Europe needs.





3. Administrative Considerations

Internationalisation Schemes - General Concepts

- Two-stage submission process:

Short pre-proposal - present consortium; excellence; foreseen impact

Full proposal – in-depth overview of methodology, budgetary allocations etc

- Budget range: **€200,000 - €500,000 (projects €100,000 - €500,000)**
- Evaluation Process: Transnationally for Multilaterals; Nationally for Bilaterals
- Project duration: **2-3 years**
- **Cash Grants**
- **TRL 1-7**

**Eligible Undertakings
–
with an operating
base in Malta**

**Public Research &
Knowledge
Dissemination
Organisations and
Public Entities**

**N.B. Public-Private Collaboration
is highly encouraged!**

Companies

Partnerships

Co-operatives

Professional Bodies

Self-employed

NGO's

NPM e.g. Foundations

Mode of Funding

de minimis

- Research Types supported – FR; IR; ED
 - €200,000 over 3 years
- Co-financing rate (75%-100%)
- All sectors except Primary Production in Agriculture (attn. companies registered under NACE Code A)

State Aid – GBER Article 25

Fundamental Research
Industrial Research
Experimental Development
TRL 1 – TRL 7

Non-State Aid

Public RKDO and Public Entities that do not undertake an economic activity under the meaning of Article 107 TFEU

No need for co-financing i.e. 100% funded



Non-State Aid Considerations (1)

For R&D to be considered as a non-economic activity (allowing up to 100% financing) the following criteria shall need to be adhered to:

Planned research is to be carried out in the context of its activities as “Research and Knowledge Dissemination Organisation” as defined in Commission Framework for State Aid for R&D&I (2014.C198/01) paragraph 15(ee), which carries out an economic activity in line with the following:

a) Primary activities of ROs and RIs, in particular:

- **Education** for more and better skilled human resources
- Independent R&D for more **knowledge and understanding** including **collaborative R&D**
- **Wide dissemination** of research results on a non-exclusive and non-discriminatory basis, for example through teaching, open-access databases, open publications & open software

b) Knowledge transfer activities, where they are conducted either by the RO or RI where all profits from those activities are reinvested in the primary activities of the RO or RI

Non-State Aid Considerations (2)

The Applicant intends to:

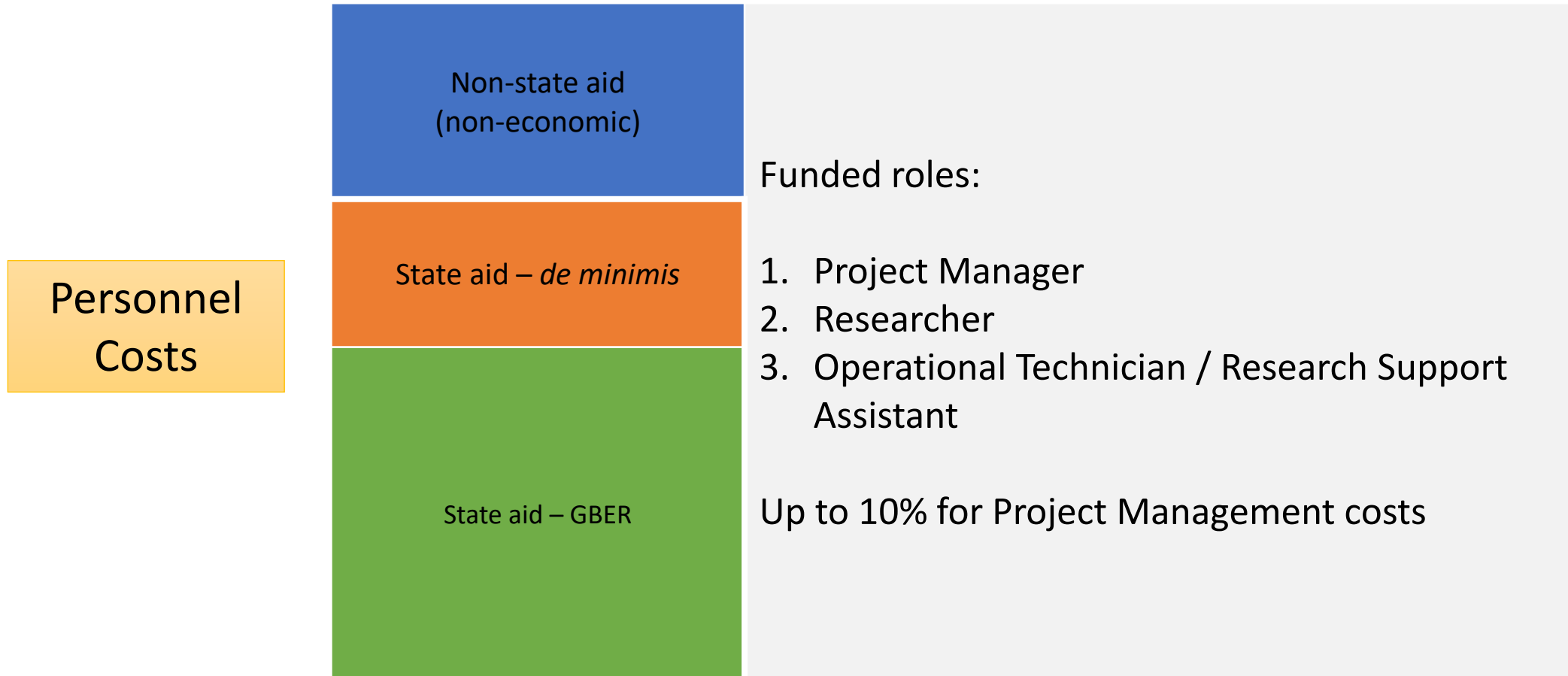
- a) **publicise widely** the results of the research;
- b) **license on non-discriminatory terms any Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)** resulting from the research at the market price for the said IPR;
- c) any income from the licensing of IPR shall be **reinvested in the primary educational and research activities** of the Beneficiary;
- d) appropriate procedures shall be established to prevent the direct or indirect support of economic activity in the meaning of chapter 2 of the Commission Notice on the notion of State aid as referred to in Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2016/C 262/01).

Non-State Aid Considerations (3)

Indirect State Aid

In the course of a collaborative project with Industry, indirect state aid may be transferred from a public RO to one or more undertaking/s, being partnered within the said project. As part of the project reporting requirements, MCST shall need to be made aware of any indirect state aid as this will effect the level of funding that can be provided to the industrial partner.

What is eligible?



What is eligible?

Specialised
equipment
and
consumables

Non-state aid
(non-economic)

**Costs of specialised equipment specifically used for project
(including software)**

State aid – *de minimis*

Overall value of consumables typically **cannot exceed 30%** of project value

State aid – GBER

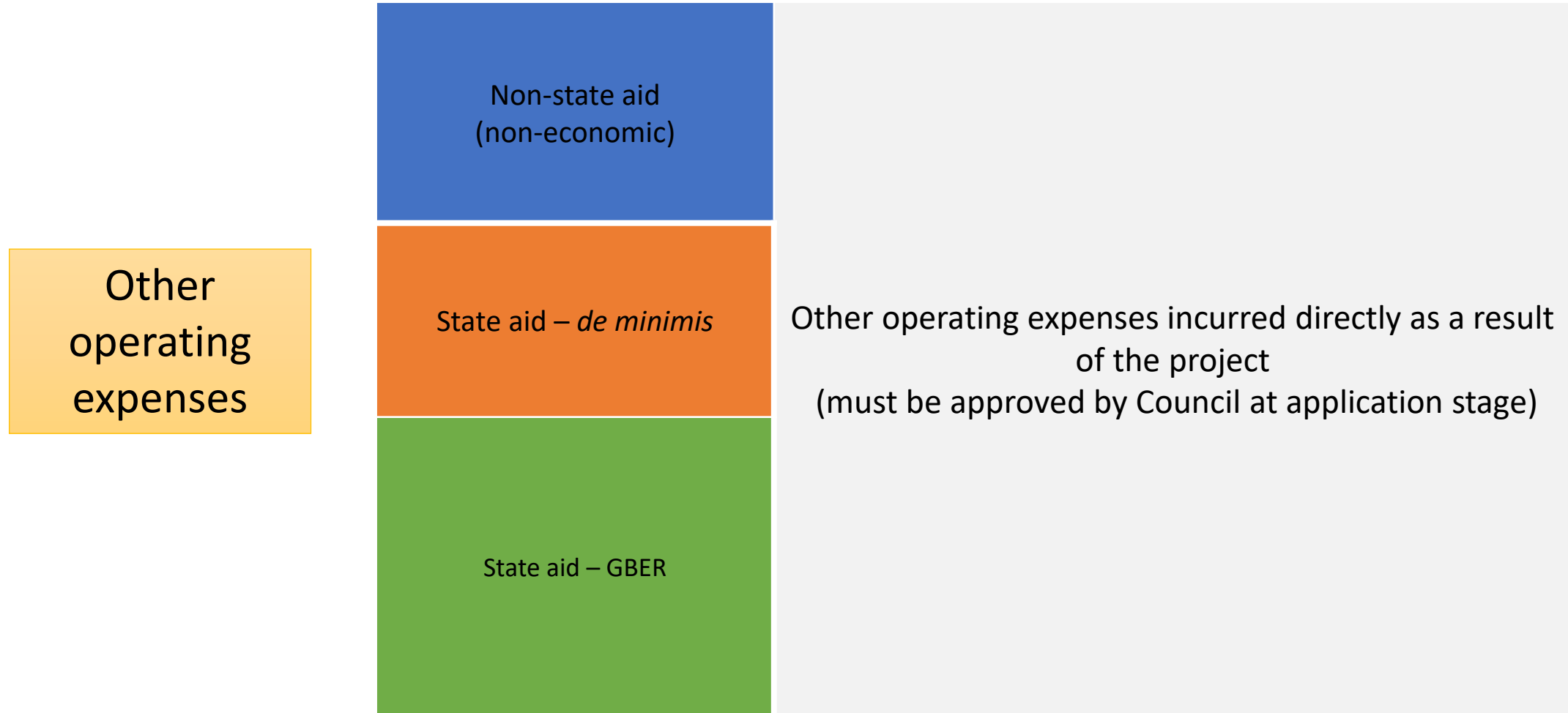
Depreciation of equipment costs for the duration of use on the project

Overall value of consumables typically **cannot exceed 30%** of project value

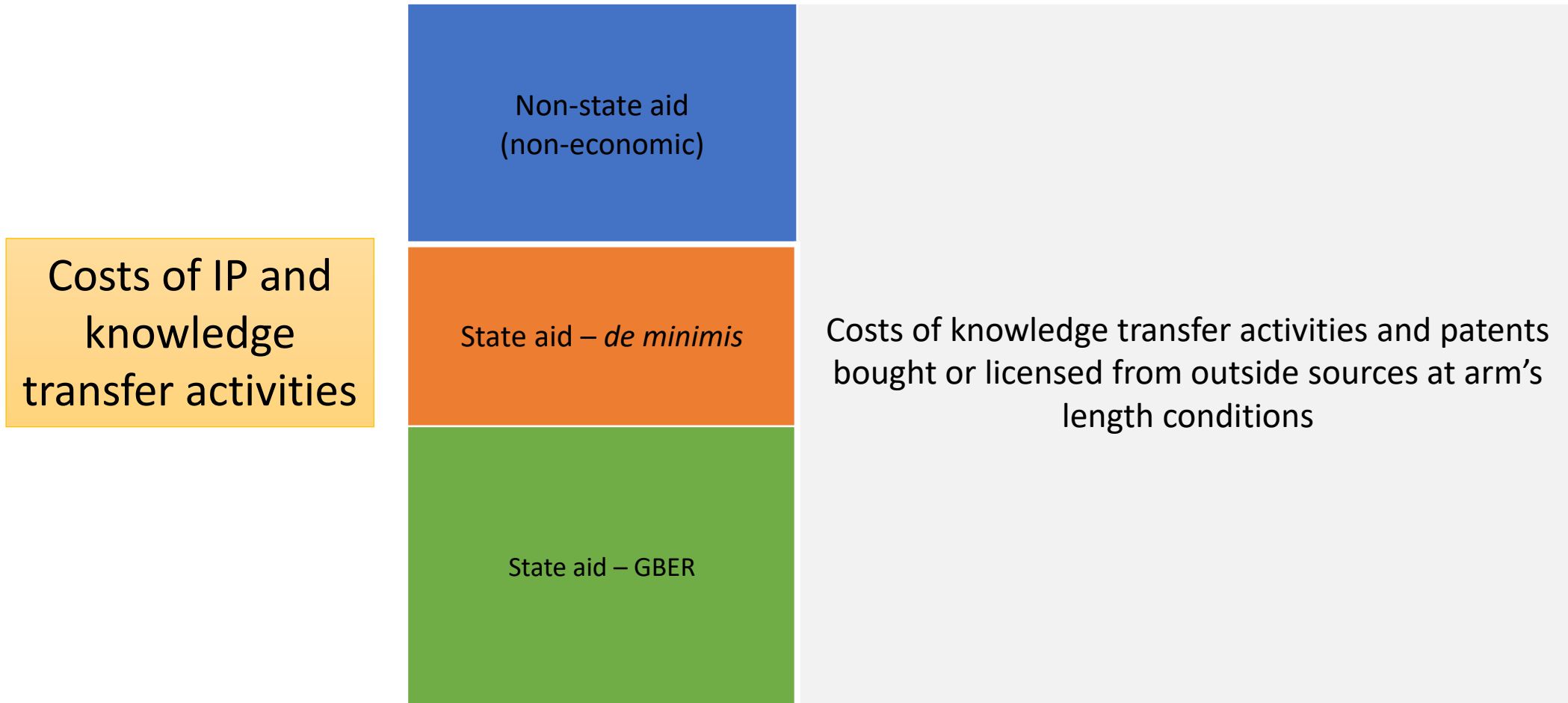
What is eligible?

Travel and Subsistence	Non-state aid (non-economic)	Eligible but varies according to the aim of the programme
	State aid – <i>de minimis</i>	
	State aid – GBER	Travel not an eligible cost

What is eligible?



What is eligible?



What is eligible?

Subcontracted
activities

Non-state aid
(non-economic)

State aid – *de minimis*

State aid – GBER

Subcontracted activities shall be allowed up to a limit of 25% of the project value, provided that prior approval is attained from the Council before subcontracting to ensure fair procurement procedures

What is eligible?

Overheads

Non-state aid
(non-economic)

State aid – *de minimis*

State aid – GBER

Overheads will be covered at 10% of direct eligible costs, excluding the costs of subcontracting.

Overheads for equipment and consumables covered at 10% of direct eligible costs and capped at:

1. €500/piece for equipment
2. max. of €500 for all consumables

What is ineligible?

- Expenses which are recoverable through other funding mechanisms.
- Re-purchase of the same equipment originally procured through other funding mechanisms.
- Purchase of equipment from partners or their subsidiaries.
- Standard office equipment.
- Personnel hours for travelling

Thank you